

SCIENCE+ANIMALS+PUZZLES+PEOPLE+ARTS+PHOTOS+BOOKS+SPORTS+A STAR FOR BATMAN

THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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SEA

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This week's big news

DID YOU KNOW?

The World Meteorological Organization names hurricanes that form over the Atlantic Ocean using a rotating list of names.



Asheville, North Carolina, after the hurricane

How you can help



If you'd like to help people affected by the hurricane, your family could contribute to an organization like the United Way, American Red Cross, or Salvation Army. They are supplying food, clothing, and other necessities. The Florida Disaster Fund and Manna FoodBank in Asheville, North Carolina, are helping locally.

Hurricane Helene strikes southeast

A massive hurricane struck the southeastern region of the US, hammering six states and devastating North Carolina. Hurricane Helene unleashed record-breaking floods and destroyed entire towns over a span of more than 600 miles.

What happened?

Just after 11 p.m. on September 26, Helene made landfall near Perry, Florida, as a Category 4 hurricane (Category 5 is the most severe). Winds reached 140 miles per hour, and a storm surge (rise of seawater) of up to 15 feet along Florida's west coast occurred, flooding the Tampa Bay area. Over the next two days, the storm headed north, causing torrential rains in northern Georgia, western North Carolina, and parts of South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Creeks and rivers overflowed, resulting in the worst flooding in parts of Georgia and the Carolinas in more than 100 years. Across the states, thousands of people were ordered to evacuate their homes, and millions lost power, water, gas, and cell service.

What was the extent of the damage?

As *The Week Junior* went to press on October 1, the severity of the destruction was still being assessed. More than 1.5 million people in several

states were still without electricity. Hundreds of people were reported missing, and at least 140 people had died. At least 50 deaths occurred in Buncombe County, in western North Carolina, which includes the city of Asheville. Helene leveled communities in the region, triggering landslides, knocking down trees and electrical poles, and damaging water treatment facilities, which left residents without clean water. More than 400 roads, including a major interstate highway, were closed there. In Florida, the storm wiped out the island community of Cedar Key and washed away 90% of homes in the coastal town of Keaton Beach. Officials said property damage and losses could run as high as \$110 billion.



National Guard members hand out food in Florida.

What was the cause?

The hurricane gained strength from ocean water that was at or near record-high temperatures, weather experts said. When a storm moves over warm water, it gains strength. In this case, the water Helene traveled over was about the temperature of a warm bath. Steady winds also contributed. Strong winds higher up in a storm system can separate the center of the storm, which causes it to weaken. But the winds around Helene were consistent, which allowed it

to intensify quickly. The storm also moved unusually fast, barreling north at up to 30 miles per hour once it reached land.

How are people being helped?

Thousands of workers and volunteers have spread out across the affected states. Crews searching for survivors have saved hundreds of people, including more than 50 people trapped on the roof of a hospital in Tennessee. Food and water were air-dropped into parts of North Carolina that were cut off by the storm, and utility crews began working to restore water systems. The American Red Cross set up or supported more than 140 shelters that housed over 9,400 people during and after the storm. Companies like Lowe's and Walmart committed millions of dollars and sent supplies to help with relief and rebuilding efforts.

What will happen next?

When *The Week Junior* went to press, search and rescue operations were ongoing in North Carolina and cleanup had begun elsewhere. Crews from other states, including Missouri and Massachusetts, were headed to affected areas to help. In the coming days, crews will begin rebuilding roads and bridges. President Joe Biden declared emergencies in the six affected states, which will allow people to receive money for housing, food, repairs, and other needs.



Jewish holidays are observed

Jewish people around the world are celebrating the High Holidays, which began with Rosh Hashanah, the start of the Jewish New Year, from October 2–4, and will end with Yom Kippur, from October 11–12. The holidays are a time of self-reflection, prayer, and atonement (when someone makes up for an offense they have caused).

In Judaism, Rosh Hashanah is when God considers people's behavior and records their deeds in the Book of Life. It is the start of 10 days of reflection, when Jewish people weigh their actions over the past year and seek forgiveness for things they've done wrong. During this time, people gather in synagogues (places of worship) for prayer and to hear the blowing of the shofar, an instrument made from a ram's horn. People eat traditional foods like challah bread and apples with honey to symbolize a sweet new year.

The Book of Life is sealed again on Yom Kippur, also called the Day of Atonement. It is the holiest day of the year. On Yom Kippur, many Jews pray and fast (do not eat or drink) for 25 hours.



A Rosh Hashanah table



An octopus

WOW!
Octopuses range in size from about 2 inches long to up to 18 feet long, with an arm span of up to 30 feet.

Celebrating World Octopus Day

World Octopus Day will be marked on October 8. The purpose of the day is to honor the intelligence and diversity of these marine animals and raise awareness of the importance of protecting them.

Octopuses are cephalopods, a group of ocean animals with multiple arms or tentacles. The first World Octopus Day was held in 2007, with its founders choosing October 8 to honor the animal's eight arms. Octopuses also have three hearts, blue blood, and "mini-brains" in each of their arms. They have lived on Earth for hundreds of millions of years, since before the dinosaurs.

Today, there are more than 300 known species of octopus living in the world's oceans.

Most of the species are not considered endangered, but some research has found that octopus populations are declining due to overfishing, habitat loss, and pollution.

A variety of events will be held around the world to celebrate the day. In the US, the Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois, is hosting a special virtual conversation about octopuses, titled "All Things Octopuses: A World Octopus Day Special." It will be led by Janet Voight, a renowned scientist in the field of octopus studies.

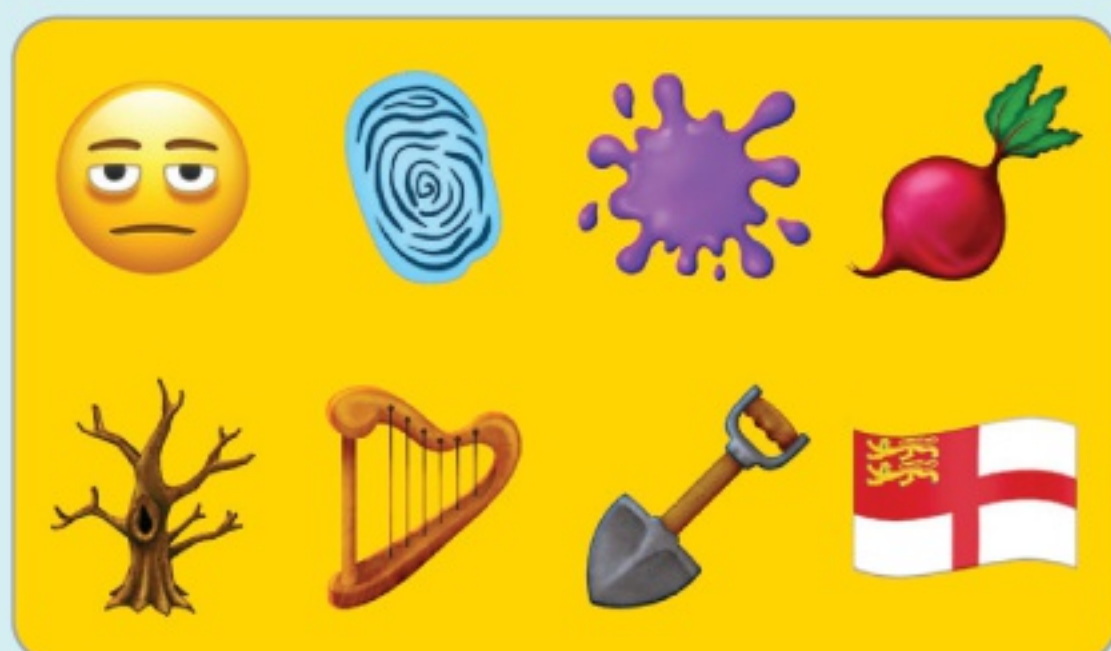
Other aquariums will hold educational events, while schools and libraries are inviting children to make octopus crafts and share fun facts about the animals.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

AN EMOJI EXPANSION

Eight new emojis will appear on smartphones soon. The latest symbols—shown below and approved by a nonprofit group called the Unicode Consortium—include a tired face, a fingerprint, a root vegetable, and a harp.



A STAR FOR A SUPERHERO

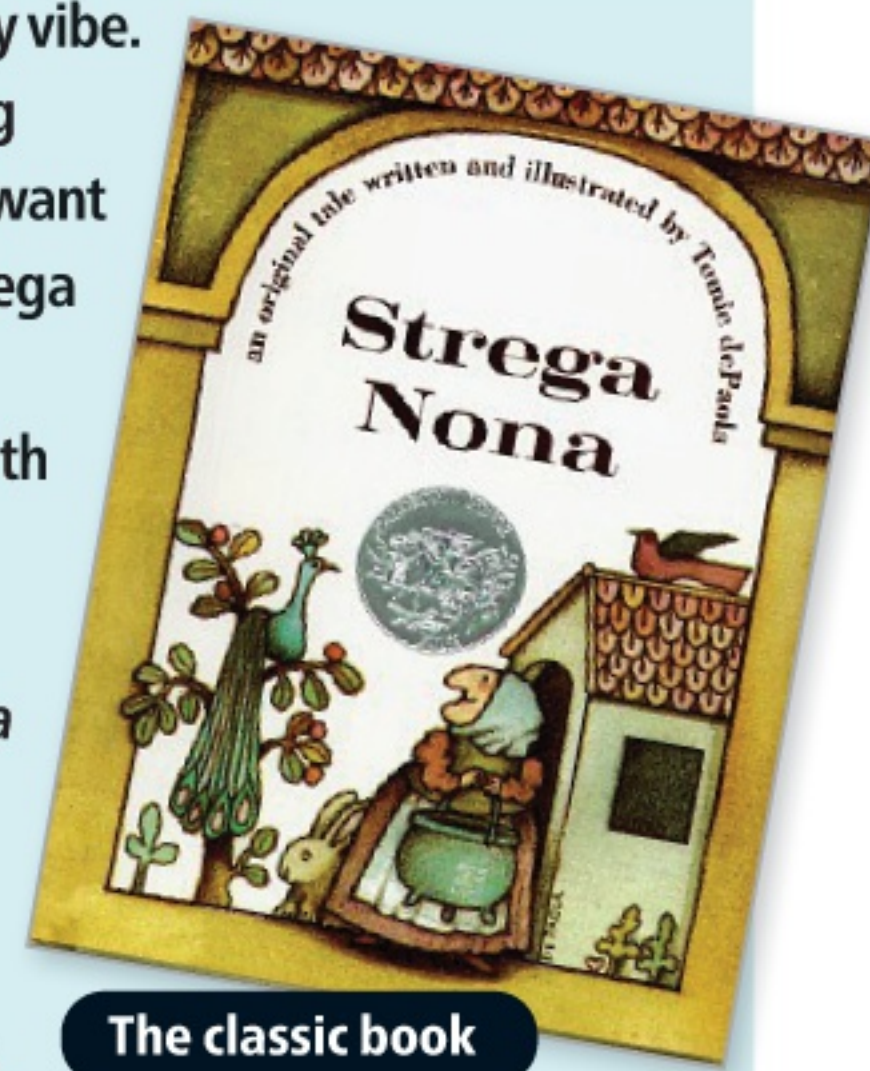
Batman became the first superhero to be honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles, California. The Caped Crusader, who first appeared in a comic book in 1939, has been "a symbol of determination, courage, and justice to generations of fans," said city officials.



Batman and his star

REVIVING A FAVORITE

Nearly 50 years after her debut, a character from a classic children's book is going viral for her calm and cozy vibe. People are saying online that they want to be just like Strega Nona, a good-natured witch with a magical pasta pot in the 1975 book *Strega Nona* by Tomie dePaola. "Time for Strega Nona fall," said one fan.



The classic book



National news

DID YOU KNOW?

A single plastic bag can linger in oceans and landfills for 1,000 years.



The law bans all types of plastic bags.

Other states with bag bans



This year, Colorado and Rhode Island enacted bans on single-use plastic bags, joining these 10 states that already had restrictions in place: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington. The aim is for people to shop with reusable bags.

California passes new plastic bag ban

California has passed a new law banning plastic bags from store checkouts. The ban, which was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom, is an attempt to improve the state's previous plastic bag ban, which had been in place for nearly 10 years.

What was the old law?

In 2014, California became the first state to pass a plastic bag ban. At least 11 other states have since passed some form of ban on single-use plastic bags (see box at top right). But California's law allowed stores to sell shoppers thicker plastic bags for 10 cents each. These thicker bags were meant to be reused, but people rarely did and the bags became a substantial form of waste. In 2021, California

discarded about 231,072 tons of plastic waste, which was nearly 100,000 tons more than the amount discarded before the law took effect.

What will the new law do?

The new law will prohibit most grocery stores, convenience stores, and other retailers from offering any type of plastic bag to customers. Shoppers who don't bring their own bag with them can pay 10 cents or more for a paper bag or hand-carry their purchase. Stores can also sell canvas-style reusable bags to customers in other areas of the store but not at the checkout counter.

How did people react?

Many elected officials praised the law. It's "easy to follow and will help dramatically reduce

plastic bag pollution," said state lawmaker Catherine Blakespear. Melissa Valliant of the advocacy group Beyond Plastics said the law will help other states realize that allowing thicker plastic bags doesn't reduce plastic waste. Erin Hass, a director for an organization of plastic manufacturers, said her group was not in favor of the law because they said it would result in fewer jobs and less tax revenue.

What will happen next?

The new law will take effect on January 1, 2026. Stores that choose to sell paper bags to customers will have until 2028 to use bags that are made of at least 50% post-consumer recycled materials that would have otherwise ended up in landfills.



WORD OF THE WEEK

WHISTLE

The first use of the word "whistle" was to describe a small pipe or flute. Later, it was used to describe the high-pitched sound produced by blowing through your lips. The

word's origin lies in its sound. To say "whistle," you must purse your

lips together in a way that is similar to what you do to produce a whistling noise.

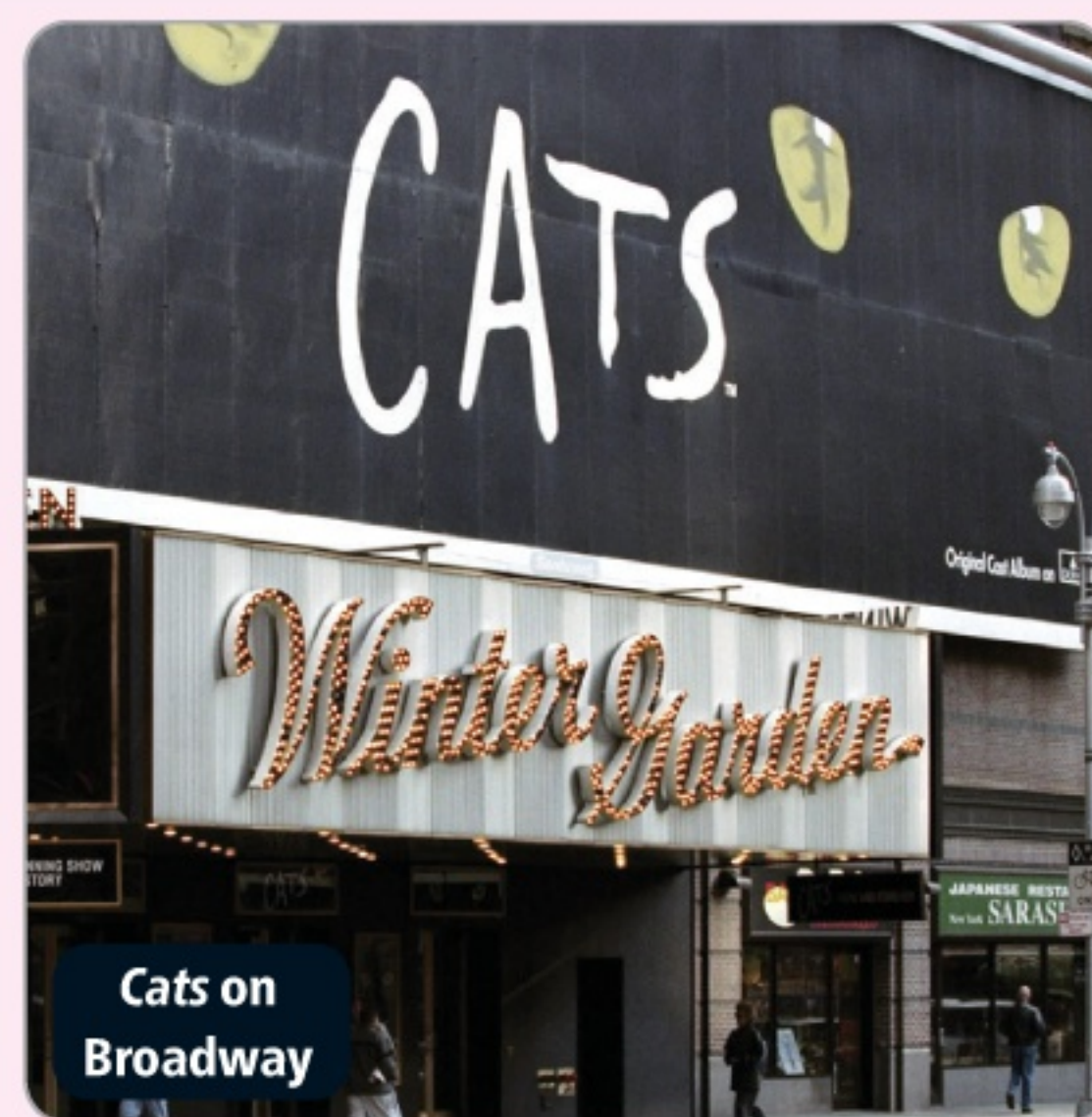


THE WEEK IN HISTORY

October 7, 1982

Cats opens on Broadway

On October 7, 1982, *Cats* opened on Broadway in New York City. The musical, written by British composer Andrew Lloyd Webber, was about a tribe of cats called the Jellicles. Critics praised the show for transporting audiences into a "complete fantasy world." By the time *Cats* closed on September 10, 2000, it had been performed 7,485 times, making it one of Broadway's longest-running productions.



Cats on Broadway



The candidates

Debate for VP candidates

When *The Week Junior* went to press on October 1, a debate between the two candidates for US Vice President — Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota (the Democrat, above left) and Senator JD Vance of Ohio (the Republican) — was set to take place that night. Both campaigns agreed to the rules for the 90-minute debate, which was to be televised live from New York City and moderated by CBS News anchors Norah O'Donnell and Margaret Brennan.



Hoda Kotb

NBC journalist to step down

Hoda Kotb, a host of *Today*, a morning program on NBC, announced she will leave the show in early 2025. Kotb, age 60, has been with NBC for 26 years. She spent 10 years at the news program *Dateline* and joined *Today* in 2007. After her announcement, her colleagues expressed how much she will be missed. "You've been the heart of this show for a long time," said *Today* co-host Al Roker.



The new stamp

Postal service to mark Kwanzaa

The US Postal Service revealed its 2024 Forever stamp to honor Kwanzaa, the Pan-African American holiday that celebrates family, community, and culture and is observed by millions of people in the US from December 26 to January 1. The stamp, designed by artist Ekua Holmes, features a drummer, two dancers, and the traditional black, red, and green colors of the Pan-African flag.



The student winners

MAKING ART WITH WORDS

The word "poetry" comes from the Greek word *poieo*, which translates to "I create."

National Student Poets are named

Five high school students have been named the 2024 National Student Poets, the top honor in the US for young poets. Each person received a \$5,000 academic award.

The award is administered through a partnership between the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. Students in 10th and 11th grades were eligible to enter, and more than 30,000 entries were submitted. They were judged on originality, technical skill, and personal voice.

A total of 40 students were selected as semifinalists, who were then invited to submit additional poetry and performance videos. The semifinalists' work was evaluated by a panel of 10 award-winning writers and editors, including former US poet laureate Juan Felipe Herrera.

Each of the five students who were ultimately chosen represents a different geographical area in the US. They will serve as literary ambassadors

for the communities in their region throughout the year, participating in public readings, workshops, and service projects.

The winners (shown above, from left) are Marcus Burns of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, representing the Northeast; Nadia Wright of Jackson, Mississippi (Southeast); Anya Melchinger of Honolulu, Hawaii (West); Robert Gao of Champaign, Illinois (Midwest); and Sofia Kamal of Phoenix, Arizona (Southwest).

The students' poetry draws on family heritage, the natural world, and other themes. For example, Burns' poem "Yiping's Asian Market" reflects on the sacrifice his grandmother made to come to the US,

while Wright's "Where I'm Going" is an ode to her upbringing in the American South. Kamal's "Gas Station" reflects on the Moon.

The "remarkable talent and artistry" of the poets "will shine throughout their year of service, inspiring communities across the nation," said Cyndee Landrum of the IMLS.



NATIONAL
STUDENT
POETS
PROGRAM

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Escaped pigs wrangled as school kids cheer" UPI





Around the world



A canal in France

France Canal route is underway

Work has started on the Seine-Nord Europe Canal (SNEC), which will be used as a route for transporting goods between France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. The new canal will be 177 feet wide and more than 66 miles long. Currently, goods are sent along the Canal du Nord, which is much narrower. The SNEC is designed to allow larger ships to pass through, carrying up to 220 trucks' worth of cargo.



Claudia Sheinbaum

Mexico City, Mexico Inauguration leads to dispute

At a special ceremony on October 1, Claudia Sheinbaum officially became Mexico's president. In an unusual move, Sheinbaum refused to invite the king of Spain, Felipe VI, to the event. King Felipe was excluded because he has refused to apologize for crimes committed against Mexico's people 500 years ago, when Spain conquered the country. In response, Spain boycotted Sheinbaum's inauguration and sent Mexico a formal complaint.



The islands are now treeless grasslands.

Stanley, Falkland Islands Tree fossils provide surprising clue

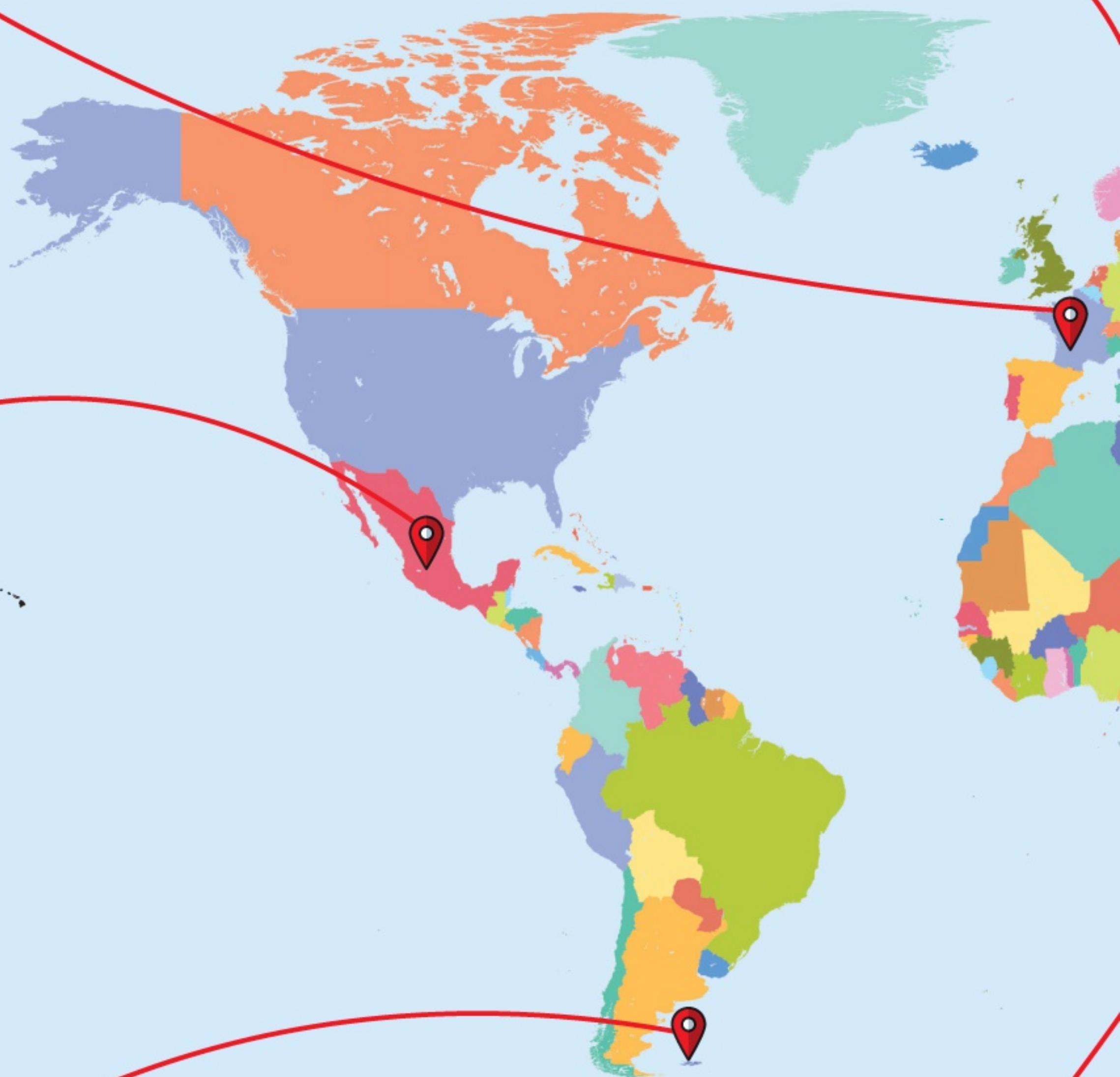
No trees have grown on the Falkland Islands for tens of thousands of years, but a recent discovery suggests that a rainforest once grew there. Scientists in the British territory found an ancient forest bed, including tree trunks and branches, buried about 20 feet under the ground. According to experts, the preserved wood is about 15 million to 30 million years old.

Vienna, Austria National election results

On September 29, the far-right Freedom Party won Austria's election. Despite its success, the Freedom Party did not win enough seats for overall control of parliament (similar to Congress). It will have to try to form a coalition (group of political parties that agree to work together), but negotiations may take weeks.



Freedom Party leader Herbert Kickl (front)



Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Celebrating Meskel

Thousands of people gathered in Ethiopia's capital city, Addis Ababa, on September 26 to celebrate Meskel, an Orthodox Christian religious festival. A huge bonfire was lit in the middle of a public square, representing the fire lit by Saint Helena during her efforts to find Jesus' cross during the fourth century. There were also performances by musicians, including an all-female choir.



A performance at the event

GETTY IMAGES (7); REUTERS (2); SCNE



A hospital near Seoul



Seoul, South Korea More funding for doctors

After months of strikes by doctors, South Korea's health ministry has announced that it will increase the fees certain doctors receive for their work. The country will spend about \$7.6 billion more on those who treat emergency cases or rare diseases. To reduce pressures on hospitals, South Korea also plans to train more medical specialists.

Shigeru Ishiba



Tokyo, Japan New prime minister is chosen

Shigeru Ishiba was elected to be the new head of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on September 27. Lawmakers chose him after the previous leader, Fumio Kishida, said he wouldn't seek re-election. Because the LDP is the ruling party in Japan, Ishiba is now the prime minister. Three days after being named for the role, Ishiba called for a national parliamentary election, which is set to take place on October 27.



The journalists



Hong Kong Journalists sentenced to jail

On September 26, journalists Chung Pui-kuen and Patrick Lam were sentenced to prison. They were convicted of publishing articles that promoted illegal ideas, including encouraging people to rebel against the government. Amnesty International, an organization that campaigns for human rights, said the Hong Kong authorities are trying to crack down on free speech, and the journalists were jailed "simply for doing their job."



Smoke over Tyre, Lebanon



Lebanon Fighting escalates

Tensions between Israel and Hezbollah, a terrorist group based in Lebanon, have intensified. They have been in conflict for decades, and fighting has increased in the past year. On September 27, Israel launched airstrikes that killed Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and others. When *The Week Junior* went to press on October 1, Israel had sent troops into Lebanon.



Ähtäri, Finland Returning pandas

Ähtäri Zoo has announced that it will return two of its giant pandas to China earlier than expected because caring for them is too expensive. China first sent the pandas, named Lumi and Pyry, to Finland in 2018 after the zoo signed an agreement to house them for 15 years. The animals need to have a zookeeper with them at all times, and their care costs more than \$1.6 million a year. They will go home in November.



Lumi



The big debate

Is it OK if students miss school to protest?

Some people think it's more important for young people to be in class.

What you need to know

- For centuries, people have protested for many reasons, from gaining the right to vote to protecting the planet.
- According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which upholds children's human rights around the world, every child has the right to protest.
- Attending school is mandatory in the US, and students can be disciplined for missing class to protest. However, the school cannot punish students based on what the protest is about.



In 2018, Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg held her first school strike urging politicians to take action on climate change. The strikes, known as "Fridays for Future," grew and soon inspired hundreds of thousands of young people around the world to take part. And the strikes made a difference. One study found that 30% of people changed their habits to be more environmentally friendly as a result of protests by kids. Many people argue that it's important for young people to protest for causes they believe in—even if the demonstrations are scheduled during the school day. What do you think? Is it OK if students miss school to protest?

Yes—it's a way to express their views

Throughout history, young protesters have helped bring about major change in our society, from marching for a woman's right to vote in the early 1900s to calling for the end of the Vietnam War in the 1960s and standing up for equal rights during the Black Lives Matter protests in 2020. Young people should be free to express their opinions, and since they can't vote, protests are one of the few ways they can speak up. The US Constitution guarantees people the right to protest, and school shouldn't get in the way of exercising that right. Learning to stand up for your beliefs is just as important as learning math or history.

No—they could fall behind

Young people should be free to express their opinions—but not at the cost of their education. Teachers and schools can't tell if students truly want to attend the protest or if they're using it as an excuse to skip class, so they shouldn't offer the opportunity at all. And there is always so much material to cover in school and no time to spare. If students fall behind because they missed class to protest, they could feel stressed. Besides, there are plenty of ways for students to express their views without missing valuable learning time. They could take part in a demonstration during non-school hours or write to their elected officials.

YES Three reasons why it is OK if students miss school to protest

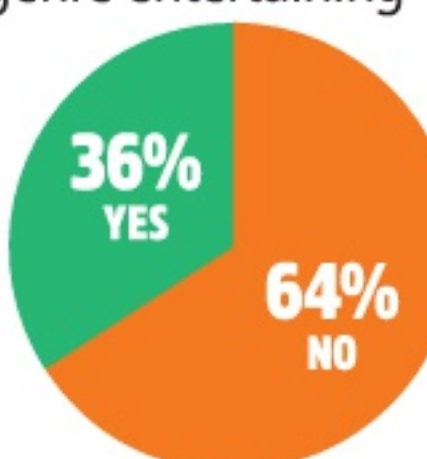
- 1 Throughout history, protests have brought about important change.
- 2 Children have the right to protest, and because they can't vote, they need to express their beliefs.
- 3 Students can always catch up at school, but standing up for what you believe in—like tackling climate change—can't wait.

NO Three reasons why it is not OK if students miss school to protest

- 1 Although some students care about a cause, others just want to skip school.
- 2 If students fall behind on school work, they could become very stressed and it could affect their education.
- 3 There are plenty of other ways for students to express their views that don't involve missing school.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

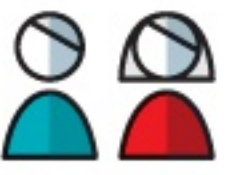
Last week, we asked if reality TV has gone too far. Most of you find the genre entertaining rather than over the top: 64% said no, and 36% said yes.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think it is OK if students miss school to protest or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

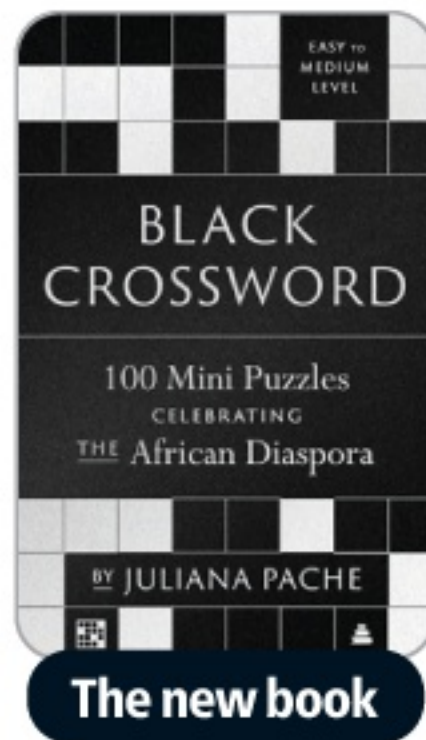
The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



Highlighting her heritage

Juliana Pache creates crossword puzzles that reflect Black communities.

Doing crossword puzzles started out as a fun hobby for jewelry designer Juliana Pache, but eventually she grew frustrated with the average puzzle. Pache, who is of Afro-Caribbean descent, noticed that cultural references and expressions rooted in Black communities weren't represented in puzzle clues. This realization inspired her to launch blackcrossword.com, a site that includes daily mini crosswords focused on Black history and culture. She has released her first book, *Black Crossword: 100 Mini Puzzles Celebrating the African Diaspora*, featuring puzzles from the site.



The new book

Pache's puzzles feature clues that require a blend of general and cultural knowledge. For example, the clue "former Yankee Derek" refers to Derek Jeter, the legendary Black baseball player for the New York Yankees. Another clue, "four letters, rude seasoning," leads to the answer "jerk," a popular seasoning in Caribbean cuisine. Pache aims to engage the Black diaspora—which refers to people of African descent, particularly those whose ancestors were taken from Africa during the slave trade (around 1526–1867)—and highlight their diverse cultures and experiences.

While Pache wants Black people to discover more about one another in a fun way, she also welcomes people from other communities to do her puzzles. "There's a lot to learn, honestly, even from within the Black community because it is so diverse," she told NPR.



Juliana Pache

DID YOU KNOW?

The first known crossword puzzle was published in the New York World newspaper in 1913.

Musician on mission

Adrian Anantawan, a violinist from Canada who was born without a right hand and most of his forearm, is working to showcase musicians with disabilities. He has been playing the violin since he was a child, when engineers helped his family make an adaptive device so he could hold a bow with his shoulder. Now a professor at Berklee College of Music, he founded the Music Inclusion Ensemble, which pairs students with mentors and holds concerts. He said his goal is "to show folks what a person with a visible disability can do."



Adrian Anantawan



Mauricio Pochettino

Team gets new lead

Mauricio Pochettino is the new head coach of the US Men's National Soccer Team (USMNT). Pochettino, age 52, is from Argentina and spent much of his 17-year career playing defender for the Spanish club Espanyol. As a manager, he is known for his strategic skills and focus on developing young talent. He previously led Tottenham Hotspur to the UEFA Champions League final in 2019 and was most recently head coach of Chelsea. The USMNT is ranked 18th in the world, and Pochettino said, "We're going to build something special that the whole nation can be proud of."

OVERHEARD



"To sustain anything for a lengthy amount of time takes a lot of work, and dedication, and passion."

Singer-songwriter Christina Aguilera, age 43, on the 25th anniversary and re-release of her debut album, *Christina Aguilera*



Animals and the environment



HOW DO I LOOK?

Horses can recognize themselves in a mirror and can even tell when their face is dirty.

The animals can figure out a strategy to reach a goal.

Horseless carriages

Several US and European cities used to offer visitors tours on horse-drawn carriages, but concerns about the horses' well-being have led many places to ban the practice. This summer, Belgium's capital, Brussels, switched to a new alternative: electric carriages (below) that don't need a horse to pull them.



Horses know how to plan ahead

Horses are intelligent animals that often form a close bond with humans. Police horses, for example, are trained to stay calm in noisy crowds while responding to complicated instructions from their riders. A recent study from Nottingham Trent University in the UK has shown that horses are smart enough to plan ahead, especially when a few treats are involved.

The study involved a game played with 20 horses. At the beginning, the animals were given a treat for touching a card with their nose. Next, the researchers started using a light to signal

"stop" and rewarded the horses only if they touched the card when the light was off.

At first, the horses nudged the card anyway. But then the researchers introduced a penalty: If the horses touched the card while the "stop" light was on, they were given a "timeout" and weren't allowed to play the game or get a treat for 10 seconds. After this, the horses changed their behavior almost immediately and started touching the card at the right time.

Louise Evans, who led the study, said the timeout penalty showed that the horses knew exactly how the game worked all along.

"That was enough for the horses to go 'OK, let's just play by the rules,'" she explained.

Researchers say the study shows that horses have a much higher level of reasoning than people had realized. It suggests that, instead of not understanding the rules, the horses chose not to follow them—until they figured out that following the rules would benefit them by helping them get the treats sooner.

"Our study shows that they do have an awareness of the consequences and outcomes of their actions," Evans said, meaning horses are intelligent enough to think about the future and figure out strategies to achieve their goals. The researchers hope their findings will improve care for horses and encourage positive methods of training them.



A horse in the study



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Kansas

Stretching across nearly 11,000 acres in the Flint Hills of Kansas, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is the world's biggest tallgrass prairie, a habitat known for growing grasses that are taller than people. The park supports more than 500 species of plants, including wildflowers that bloom from March to October, as well as grazing animals, amphibians, reptiles, and other wildlife. Visitors can view a herd of bison roaming the Windmill Pasture, visit the historic Spring Hill Ranch House, and take a tour to learn about the history and culture of the area.



Bison roam the preserve.



A young freshwater crocodile in Australia

NOT SO SNAPPY
Freshwater crocodiles are shy creatures that don't usually attack humans.

Crocodiles avoid deadly dinner

Cane toads were brought into Australia in the 1930s to eat pests, and since then they have had an effect on other wildlife too—mostly because the toads are poisonous to animals that try to eat them. Freshwater crocodiles, for example, don't know the toads are poisonous. The deadly poison kills crocodiles quickly, so the crocs don't get a chance to learn to avoid this dangerous meal. Now experts have taught the crocs not to eat cane toads.

Scientists gathered dead cane toads and replaced their poison with a chemical

that makes crocodiles sick but won't kill them. In 2021, the team put out 2,400 of the toads next to chicken meat as food. After five days, the crocodiles began to learn that eating the toads made them feel ill. They still ate the chicken, but they steered clear of the toads.

When the experiment was repeated the next year, the crocodiles avoided the toads, showing that they remembered and had learned from their mistakes. Experts hope this will keep freshwater crocodiles alive and well in the future.

Animal of the week

Chilean flamingo



At Paignton Zoo in the UK, Arthur and Curtis, two male Chilean flamingos, are raising a chick together. The pair found an abandoned egg, hatched the chick, and adopted it. This was one of the zoo's first successful hatchings in six years.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Up to 50 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Warm climates in South America
- **SIZE:** About 4 to 5 feet tall, 5 to 7 pounds
- **DIET:** Algae, crustaceans, and mollusks
- **FUN FACT:** What looks like a "knee" in the middle of a flamingo's leg is actually its ankle.

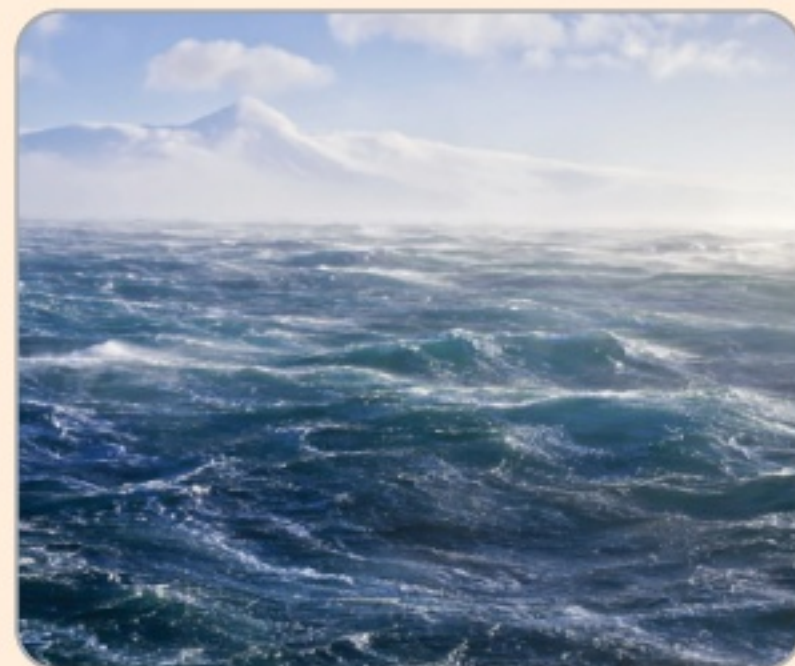


Good week / Bad week



Malayan tigers

The Tulsa Zoo in Oklahoma has welcomed five new Malayan tiger cubs. Three males and two females were born to mom Ava and dad Raja as part of a breeding program for the critically endangered species.



The Bering Sea

According to a new study, parts of the Bering Sea near Alaska are becoming less Arctic, which means warmer temperatures and fewer ice-covered areas. This is harming creatures that need Arctic conditions, such as snow crabs and sea lions.



"Can certain types of ants fly?"

Emma, 12, Maryland

Marco Wendt

Wildlife ambassador,
San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

Yes, some certainly can! A young, winged queen leaves her colony on her first and only flight with a number of winged males. At certain times of the year, such swarms of flying ants are a common sight. These winged ants are often called alates, swarmers, or reproductives.



An alate ant

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the San Diego Zoo at sandiegozoo.org.



Apply to join

We're now accepting applications for the Spring 2025 program.

We're conducting a national search for 12 students, ages 8 to 14, who want to have their voices heard about the issues and causes that matter to them. This will be *The Week Junior's* sixth session of Junior Council. During previous sessions, council members attended virtual meetings with *The Week Junior* editors, interviewed guest speakers, and completed writing activities. Use the information below to find out more about Junior Council and apply for the Spring 2025 program.



Speak up and speak out!

Junior Council members will dive into turning their ideas into action. Kids ages 8 to 14 will discover how to be heard by local, state, and national leaders—and how to share big ideas for a big impact—directly from *The Week Junior* editors and mentors. A project created by council members may appear in a future issue of the magazine.



How it works

The Week Junior staff and mentors will guide Junior Council members through regular video calls and virtual workshops from January through May 2025. There will be about six sessions, with a guest speaker at some meetings. Other sessions will focus on helping council members produce content for the magazine. The council will meet during weekday evenings (Eastern Time) to accommodate members in different time zones.

Junior Council!



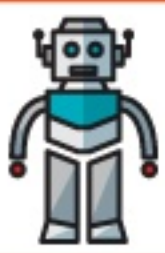
Participants from
previous Junior
Council sessions



Apply today!

With an adult, go to juniorcouncil.theweekjunior.com to download the application and fill it out. A parent or guardian must review and sign the form. The completed application, along with a photo of yourself (school picture or similar), should be emailed by a parent or guardian to juniorcouncil@theweekjunior.com. The deadline to submit the application is October 24, 2024. See the official rules at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-JCRules. Send an email to juniorcouncil@theweekjunior.com with any questions.

NO PURCHASE OR SUBSCRIPTION NECESSARY. Void where prohibited. Open to legal residents of the US, DC, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, 8–14 years of age. Begins 10/1/24 at 12:00:01 a.m. ET and ends on 10/24/24 at 11:59:59 p.m. ET. Odds of being selected as a Junior Council member depend on the total number of eligible entries received and adherence to the judging criteria. Subject to Official Rules at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-JCRules. Sponsor: FUTURE PLC and its division named THE WEEK JUNIOR, 135 West 41st Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10017.



MAGIC CIRCLE

One legend says Stonehenge was created by a wizard named Merlin, who used magic to carry the stones from Ireland.

More than 1 million people visit Stonehenge every year.

Surprising Stonehenge discovery

Stonehenge, a prehistoric monument in the UK, has puzzled historians for many years. The earliest parts of the monument were constructed about 5,000 years ago, and the famous large standing stones were put in place 500 years later. Scientists and history experts have long questioned who built it, why, and how it was possible using the limited tools available at the time. Now a new study has found that one of the structure's stones, the Altar Stone, originally came from at least 460 miles away in northern Scotland.

Stonehenge is in Wiltshire, England. Researchers thought the stones used to build the monument were from England and Wales, which is another country in the UK. The big standing stones were traced to the West Woods, an ancient woodland site about 15 miles from Stonehenge. The smaller stones in the middle are thought to be from the Preseli Hills in Wales, about 170 miles away.

Originally, scientists thought the central, half-buried Altar Stone came from the Preseli Hills as well, even though it's a slightly different type of rock. However, recent analysis suggested it is not from Wales after all.

To determine where the Altar Stone really came from, researchers looked at chemicals and minerals in the stone. This created an "age fingerprint" for the stone. The team then compared the "fingerprint" with other rocks around the UK to try to find a match.

The closest similarity they could find was with rocks from the Orcadian Basin in northeast Scotland. This is an area that used to be filled with water millions of years ago, and experts now call this ancient body of water Lake Orcadie.

The team hasn't yet identified the exact location where the rock was taken from, but what they've found suggests that the Altar Stone, which weighs 13,227 pounds, had to travel at least 460 miles to be used as part of Stonehenge.

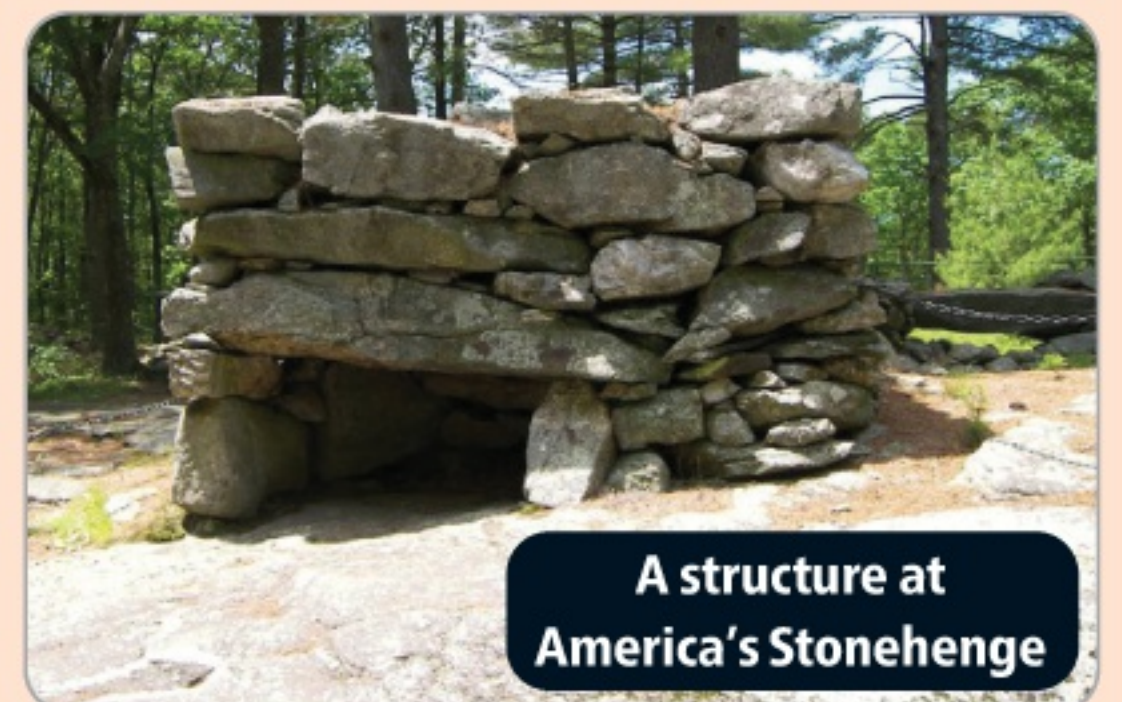
Researchers are now wondering why a stone from so far away was used in the monument and how it was transported to Wiltshire.

A journey on land would have been difficult because of natural barriers like forests and mountains. One possibility is that the stone was transported by sea, but experts will need to do more research to confirm this.



The location of the buried Altar Stone

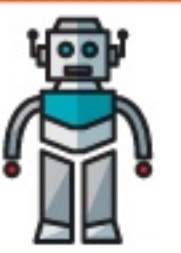
America's Stonehenge



A structure at America's Stonehenge

A 4,000-year-old site in Salem, New Hampshire, has been dubbed America's Stonehenge and most likely includes the oldest human-made structures in the US. It consists of multiple stone structures, including walls, chambers, passageways, and gathering places.

Experts aren't sure if America's Stonehenge was built by Native Americans or early European settlers. It may have served as an astronomical calendar. Even today, the site can be used to determine the timing of some solar and lunar events. Some researchers speculate that it could also have served as a site for religious ceremonies. It's also possible that some of the structures were stops on the Underground Railroad, a route that was used to free enslaved people in the 1800s.



Giant sea scorpions traveled to Australia

More than 400 million years ago, giant sea-dwelling scorpions traveled thousands of miles through the water, according to a new study. Although most fossils of these prehistoric creatures, called eurypterids, have been found in what is now North America and Europe, the fossils examined in the study were found in Australia.

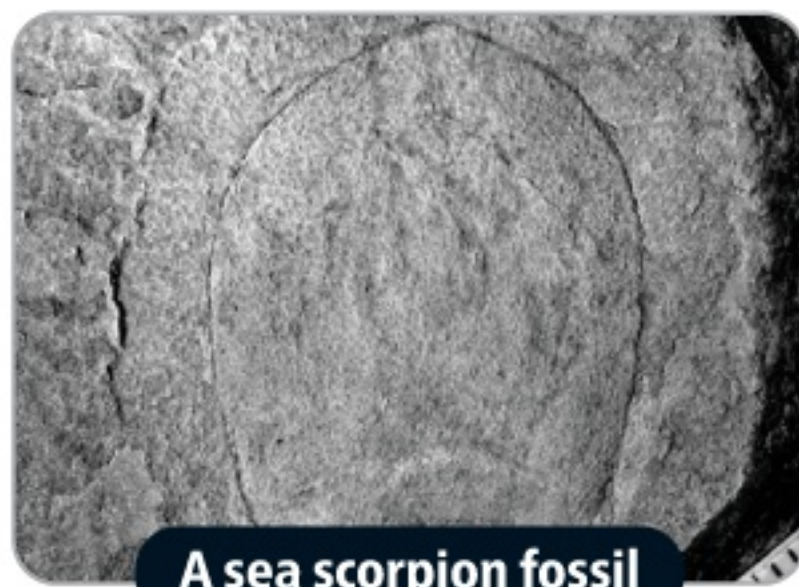
There were more than 200 species of eurypterids, which ranged in size from a few inches long to about nine feet long. They had sharp, strong claws and were probably top predators.

In the new study, Russell Bicknell, a researcher with the American Museum of Natural History, and his colleagues examined two sets of fossil fragments

from Australia. They confirmed that the fossils were from the eurypterid species *Pterygotus* and *Jaekelopterus* (or “the really, really big ones,” Bicknell said).

The existence of these fossils in Australia means that eurypterids had a wider geographic range than scientists previously thought. “They were probably traversing a similar amount of distance as some whales do,” Bicknell said.

Much about the history of giant sea scorpions is still unknown, including why they suddenly died out about 393 million years ago. One possibility is that they traveled too far, Bicknell said. Having a better understanding of eurypterids’ range could help scientists figure out what happened to them.



A sea scorpion fossil



A rendering of a eurypterid

MAJOR MOVE

Scorpions were among the first creatures in Earth's history to adapt from living in water to living on land.

An object made by the machine



“Solid knitting” creates reusable objects

A new knitting machine can create dense 3D objects. It can be used to make a wide variety of things, from slippers to ottomans.

The machine, which is the size of a clothes dryer, was created by experts at Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania. Using special knitting needles and elastic yarn, it knits in layers to build a solid object.

Because the objects are made entirely of knotted yarn, they can be unraveled and the yarn can be

reused. For example, someone with a knitted couch wouldn’t have to haul the heavy piece of furniture if they’re moving. Instead, they could unravel it and knit a new one.

The machine is currently a prototype (test model). Scientists want to create multiple versions of it to knit objects of different shapes and sizes. “My dream is to have these solid knitting machines everywhere in the world,” said Yuichi Hirose, who designed it.



A projector for the ceiling



The GV50 in action

Movie night takes on a whole new meaning with the GV50 Ceiling Projector made by BenQ. The portable device can be angled to project a movie or show onto the ceiling so viewers can get comfortable in bed and look up to watch.

The GV50 has an adjustable base and rotates so users can find the perfect viewing angle, either on the ceiling or a wall. The projector plays for 150 minutes on one battery charge and includes a sleep timer, which shuts it off if viewers fall asleep while watching.



Photos of the week

2024

BRITISH ECOLOGY
SOCIETY CAPTURING
ECOLOGY AWARD
FINALISTS



All together

This photograph of an impala herd in Kenya was taken by Peter Hudson.



Branching out

Danni Thompson shot this image of a flowering shrub in a forest in Ecuador.



Fascinating fungi

Jenn Rose captured this image of Flammulina mushrooms in Denmark.



PETER HUDSON; FILIP JARZYNSKI; SUPRATIM LAHA; DANNI THOMPSON; DAMIEN ESQUERRE; JENN ROSE



Sharing a snack

In the UK, a male Arctic tern feeds a female in this picture by Filip Jarzyński.



Dramatic moment

This photograph of a bearded dragon in Australia, taken by Damien Esquerre, was named the overall winner.



Balancing act

Supratim Laha snapped this image of an ant watching over aphids, a type of insect, in India.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Chicago White Sox finished the season with a 41-121 record, which is the most losses by a team in a season since 1900.



Francisco Lindor
of the Mets

Big change for Oakland



On September 26, the Oakland Athletics played their final game in Oakland, California, where they had been based since 1968. In 2028, the A's will begin playing in Las Vegas, Nevada. Until then, they will stay in California and play at a ballpark in Sacramento.

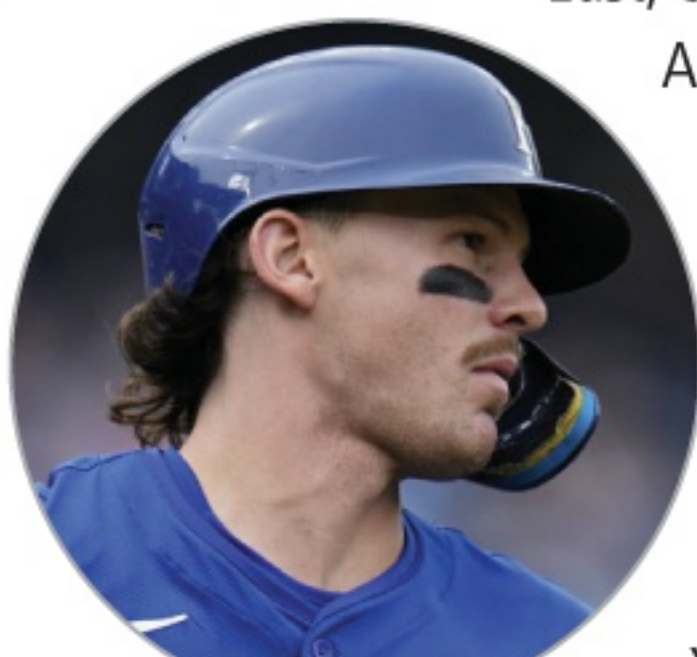
Unusual end to MLB regular season

For most Major League Baseball (MLB) teams, the regular season ended on September 29. But this year, because of rescheduling caused by Hurricane Helene and a virtual tie among three teams, there was another day of action—and it had big postseason consequences.

On September 30, the New York Mets and Atlanta Braves played a double-header that would decide if one or both of those teams would earn playoff spots. The first game had a thrilling end, with the teams trading the lead three times in the eighth and ninth innings. The Mets won, 8–7, and made the playoffs thanks to a home run by Francisco Lindor. The Braves won the second

game, 3–0. If the Braves had lost, the Arizona Diamondbacks would have made the playoffs.

In the MLB postseason, the winners of the East, Central, and West divisions of the American League (AL) and National League (NL) automatically make the playoffs. The team with the most wins overall was the Los Angeles Dodgers of the NL West, who had a 98–64 record. The top AL team was the New York Yankees of AL East, who were 94–68. The other division winners were the Houston Astros (AL West), who won their fourth title in a row, the Cleveland Guardians (AL Central), the Philadelphia Phillies (NL East), and the Milwaukee Brewers (NL Central).



Bobby Witt Jr.

In each league, the three teams with the next highest win totals qualify as wild cards. In the AL, the Detroit Tigers won 31 of their final 44 games to make their first playoffs since 2014. They will be joined by the Baltimore Orioles and the Kansas City Royals. The Royals are in the playoffs for the first time since they won the 2015 World Series. Their star shortstop, Bobby Witt Jr., won this year's AL batting title with a .332 average. The NL wild cards are the Mets, the Braves, and the San Diego Padres, whose first baseman, Luis Arraez, won his third straight NL batting title with a .314 average.

All the teams are seeded (ranked) based on their records, and the top two in each league do not compete until the Division Series, which starts on October 5. The rest compete in the Wild Card games, which began on October 1.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

BASKETBALL

On September 29, the WNBA named Minnesota Lynx star Napheesa Collier its Defensive Player of the Year. Lynx head coach Cheryl Reeve was named Coach of the Year. Four days earlier, DiJonai Carrington of the Connecticut Sun was named Most Improved Player. The Lynx and the Sun are playing each other in the playoff semifinals. The other teams in the semis are the New York Liberty and the Las Vegas Aces.



Napheesa Collier

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

On September 29, the Washington Commanders beat the Arizona Cardinals, 42–14. Commanders rookie quarterback (QB) Jayden Daniels has the highest completion rate by a QB through the first four games of any NFL season in history.

GOLF

The US won its 10th straight Presidents Cup, a team golf event for top male players, on September 29. They beat a group of international players.



STAR RUNNER

Allyson Felix of the US is the most-decorated track and field athlete in history.



Brittany Brown (left) and Gabby Thomas (right)

Stars race at women's track meet

On September 26, track stars from around the world gathered at Icahn Stadium in New York City to compete in Athlos NYC, a new event for top female runners. The lineup included recent Olympic gold medalists Gabby Thomas of the US, Faith Kipyegon of Kenya, and Marileidy Paulino of the Dominican Republic.

Athlos was launched by entrepreneur Alexis Ohanian, who is a major supporter of women's sports and married to tennis legend Serena Williams. One reason he wanted to create Athlos was to keep interest in track alive outside the Olympics. The meet was designed to have a fun, festive atmosphere and included a performance by rapper and singer Megan Thee Stallion.

Athlos NYC had the largest prize pool of any women's-only track event ever. Top track stars

typically participate in Diamond League meets, where they earn \$30,000 for a first-place finish. At Athlos NYC, first place came with a \$60,000 prize.

The meet had six events, and among the most thrilling were the 100-meter hurdles. The winner was Puerto Rican sprinter Jasmine Camacho-Quinn. She finished .07 seconds ahead of Alaysha Johnson of the US, who finished .01 seconds ahead of Masai Russell, the reigning Olympic champion. The 200-meter race was a close competition between Thomas and Brittany Brown of the US, with Brown winning by .03 seconds.

The night's other winners were Marie-Josée Ta Lou-Smith of the Ivory Coast in the 100-meter race, Paulino in the 400-meter race, Tsige Duguma of Ethiopia in the 800-meter race, and Kipyegon in the 1,500-meter event.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Dani Mendez-Trendler

AGE: 20 SPORT: FIELD HOCKEY
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Sport switch My mom played field hockey in college and won a national championship. I used to play soccer, and when I didn't enjoy it anymore, she told me to pick another sport. I blurted out "field hockey." We started hitting in my driveway, and I've never looked back.

Setting goals Around middle school, I started getting interest from colleges. It was my dream to play in a Division I program, so I told myself I needed to work really hard, take every opportunity I was given, and never take anything for granted.

Fun ritual In the locker room, I like to sing and dance with my teammates and get my nerves out. Being silly helps me relax.

Mind games I used to be afraid of making mistakes, but now my mentality is, "Be a goldfish" —they have short memories. If I make a mistake, I forget about it and move on to the next play. That matters more than the mistake you produced. Also, when I receive the ball, I try to make the most out of it by pretending it's the last play I'll ever make.

Big moments I represented the US at the Junior World Cup last year, which was amazing. I'm also proud that our team made the final four of the college national championship last year. Winning a national title is what's on our minds now.

Her advice Playing a sport can be a lot of work — mentally, physically, and emotionally. Make sure you love and enjoy it no matter how hard it is.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Edgar Torres**

Team: **Montclair United Soccer Club**

"Coach Edgar is the best coach ever, and I'm sure the whole team would agree. He's always in a good mood, and his jokes—sometimes good, sometimes bad—always bring the team up. Not only is he a good person, but he is a great teacher. My touch improved so much because of his 'sequences' (a combination of skill moves); his learning stages (understanding, rhythm, speed); and his motto: 'Go fast, but don't sacrifice the technique!'" Aarav, 9, New Jersey



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.



Life story told with Legos

In the animated documentary *Piece by Piece*, music star Pharrell Williams recalls how imagination helped him become a star.

Piece by Piece is an upcoming film about the life of singer, music producer, and fashion designer Pharrell Williams, the artist behind the popular song "Happy." Unlike typical documentaries, this one has a fun twist: All of the stories and people in it are animated with Lego bricks and mini-figures. The film, which arrives in theaters on October 11, explores Williams' remarkable creativity and the importance of dreams.

Williams, age 51, grew up in Virginia Beach and is known for making music that blends genres

and has an eclectic sound. He has worked with major artists such as Madonna and Kendrick Lamar, and he won 13 Grammys (top music award), including two for the song "Get Lucky," a collaboration with the electronic duo Daft Punk.



Pharrell Williams

Piece by Piece starts with Williams' early memories of falling in love with music while at church with his grandmother. It follows him through the challenges of his success and includes interviews with important people from his life, including hip-hop legend Jay-Z.

The film's director and co-writer, Morgan Neville, told *The Week Junior*

that he liked the creative freedom that Lego animation provided. Williams has synesthesia, a condition in which sounds are experienced as textures and colors, and the animation gave Neville a way to depict it. He also crafted scenes from Williams' imagination set in underwater kingdoms and outer space. "The film symbolizes the power of creativity," he said, calling it "an ode to the power of magical thinking."

Williams wrote a song for the film, which is also titled "Piece by Piece." He said they share the same meaningful message. "It's about having a vision for something that you want to build and doing it piece by piece."

3 facts about Pharrell Williams

Early career

Pharrell Williams and Chad Hugo (at left) formed the music duo the Neptunes as teens and were discovered by a producer at a high school talent show. They won a Grammy in 2004.



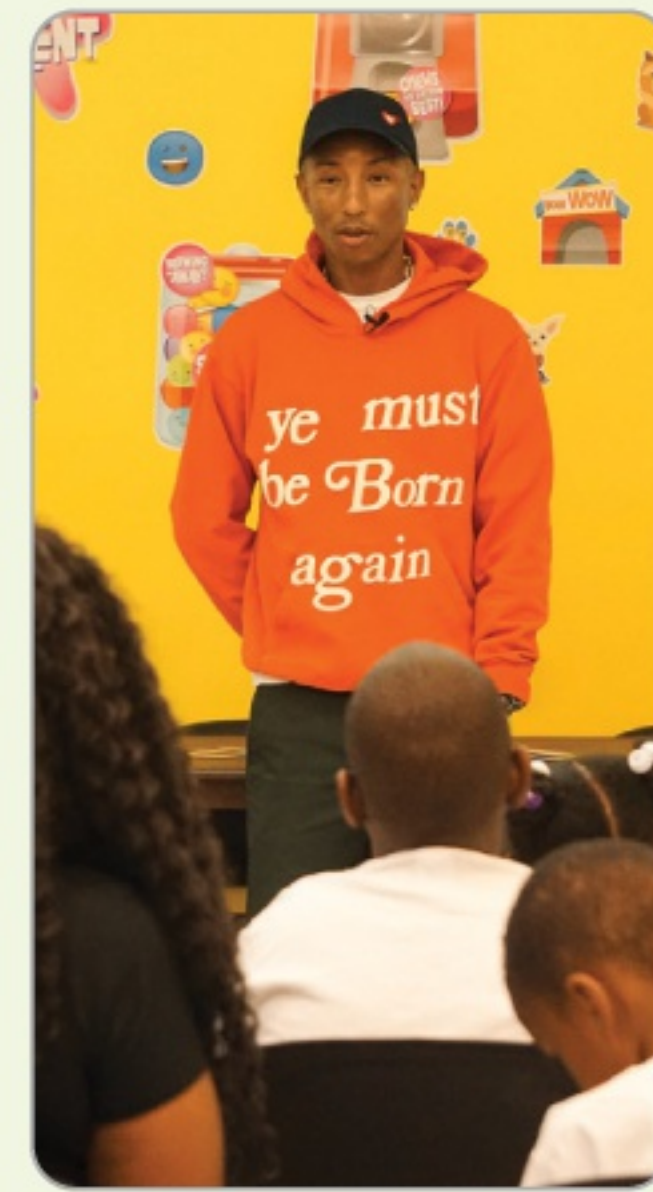
Fashion figure

Williams has become famous for his style. In the 2000s, he launched the streetwear clothing lines Billionaire Boys Club and ICECREAM (with Japanese music producer Nigo). He has been the men's creative director of the luxury fashion brand Louis Vuitton since February 2023.



Giving back

The star supports under-served communities through his nonprofits. They include a summer camp for children from low-income families and an organization that offers educational opportunities for young people.





HISTORIC MOMENT

Nebraska was officially granted statehood in 1867, making it the 37th US state.



A rendering of the Joslyn Museum

A Midwest museum reopens

The Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, Nebraska, which opened in 1931 and is the largest art museum in the state, recently reopened after a two-year renovation that cost \$100 million. The museum has been expanded, and there is new artwork on display as well as more pieces from the Joslyn's Native American art collection.

The museum was established in 1928 by a local woman named Sarah Joslyn. She wanted to honor her husband, George, who had been a prominent businessman before his death. To ensure that the institution (then called the Joslyn Memorial) was accessible to everyone, admission was free. It is a benefit the Joslyn still offers today.

The museum's original building, which is made of marble and designed in the Art Deco style, "grows out of the earth like a geological

formation," Jack Becker, the Joslyn's executive director, told *The Week Junior*. A new pavilion was attached to it in 1994, and that space connects to the new Hawks Pavilion, a light-filled, modern building that Becker says lifts up into the air, "a little bit like a cloud in the landscape."



Sarah Joslyn

The Hawks Pavilion houses the recently donated Phillip G. Schrager collection, which is made up of 52 pieces of postwar and contemporary art by famous artists such as Roy Lichtenstein and Gerhard Richter. Outside the building, visitors can explore the museum's redesigned sculpture garden.

Becker hopes the renovation helps continue the museum's mission. "We want to be a place where people can discover the arts, whether historic or contemporary, and have places to gather and to break down barriers," he said.



READER RECOMMENDS



The InBESTigators (Netflix)

"This is a fun series filled with humor and unique, relatable characters. It is about a group of fifth graders at an Australian school who become close friends. Maudie, the new girl, is really smart, Ezra is tech-savvy, Ava is business-savvy, and Kyle is really good at sports. Ezra suggests that they start a detective agency, and the others agree. They call themselves 'Inbestigators' because they consider themselves the best investigators around. They work together to solve mysteries in their neighborhood, such as playground robberies and missing science fair experiments." Hannah, 10, Texas

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Bluey Minisodes (Disney+)

A new batch of short episodes from the popular series has arrived. In this group, blue heeler puppy Bluey and her little sister Bingo's antics include creating a whirlpool in the paddling pool and giving their dad a tattoo. Bingo also discovers her passion for electric drums.



Baby Animal Rescue (National Geographic) (Hulu)

In this documentary series, conservationist Giles Clark travels to South Africa to work with teams that rescue and care for orphaned wildlife. He encounters animals such as a baby pangolin learning survival skills and an elephant calf preparing to embark on a journey to find a herd.



The Last of the Sea Women (Apple TV+)

Haenyeo are women in their 60s, 70s, and 80s from Jeju Island, South Korea, who dive deep underwater to gather seafood and don't use breathing tanks. It is a tradition that has been a part of their culture for centuries. This new documentary highlights their lives and work.



FUN FACT
The Looney Tunes theme song is called "The Merry-Go-Round Broke Down."

Wild games with Looney Tunes

Looney Tunes: Wacky World of Sports, a new arcade game, is out now for the Nintendo Switch, the PlayStation systems, Xbox platforms, and PC.

The game stars nine characters from the famous Looney Tunes cartoons, including Bugs Bunny, Lola Bunny, Daffy Duck, and the Road Runner. As they compete in basketball, soccer, golf, or tennis, they turn the competitions into slapstick showdowns. Looney Tunes fans will recognize many of the levels where the action takes place, such as Porky Pig's barn, Wile E. Coyote's desert canyon, and Marvin the Martian's command center.

As the title of the game suggests, the action in Wacky World of Sports has wild twists. In two-on-two basketball, for example, the court is stacked with falling anvils and doesn't seem to be affected by gravity, and the players can

make slam dunks while doing gymnastics. In a soccer match, meanwhile, bolts of lightning can hit the field out of the blue.

The playable characters fall into three skill categories. Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, and Wile E. Coyote are smart and strategic, just like in the cartoons. Lola Bunny, Sylvester, and the blazingly fast Road Runner use their speed to dust the competition, while Elmer Fudd, Porky Pig, and the Tasmanian Devil are full of power. The game is designed to be a multiplayer experience, with up to four people playing at once.

Like most games these days, you can enhance the basic Wacky World of Sports game with downloadable content. The Deluxe Edition has a Wild West sports pack and adds Yosemite Sam as a competitor. But even without the extras, there's plenty of silly fun to go around.



PODCAST OF THE WEEK

MYSTERIES ABOUT TRUE HISTORIES (M.A.T.H.)

Major podcast platforms

Middle schoolers Max and Molly are in a secret order of math and logic problem solvers. They battle trolls who want to go back in time and stop cool things like ice cream from being invented. The kids meet historical figures along the way.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK



GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS KIDS

[tinyurl.com/TWJUS-WorldRecords](https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/kids)

This section of the official Guinness World Records website highlights amazing feats and includes videos of people accomplishing them. It also has ideas for records kids under age 16 can try to break, including one for the fastest time putting on five T-shirts and another for speedy cupcake decorating.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

WHISTLED LANGUAGE

[tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Whistling](https://www.unesco.org/en/whistled-language)

In a mountain town in Turkey, locals communicate across long distances by whistling. This video from UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) explores their special language and highlights how cell phones put the form of expression at risk.



OUR OCTOBER
BOOK CLUB PICKWrath of
the Triple
Goddess

By Rick Riordan

(Disney Hyperion)

In this seventh adventure in the Percy Jackson series, Percy, the demigod son of the Greek ruler of the sea, Poseidon, is applying to college, and he needs two more letters of recommendation. To obtain a letter from Hecate, the triple goddess, Percy agrees to care for her pets at her New York City mansion while she is away. Even with help from friends Annabeth and Grover, Percy has his hands full. The pets were once human, and each one has magical abilities. When Grover gives in to his temptation to taste a potion, he turns into a giant, destroying the house and setting the creatures free. The friends have until the end of the week to rebuild the mansion and find the animals to prevent Hecate from releasing her fury on them. Suddenly, getting into college is the least of Percy's problems. With a combination of humor and thrills, this fast-paced story includes fascinating twists, the return of old characters, and a big battle with an army of ghosts.

WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away one signed copy of *Wrath of the Triple Goddess*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to contests@theweekjunior.com with *Wrath* in the subject line. Enter by midnight on October 25. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

In *Wrath of the Triple Goddess*, Greek gods are living in New York City, leading to plenty of laughs and drama. Here are questions to get a conversation going with friends and family who have also read this newest book in the popular Percy Jackson series.

Is it fair that Percy needs three letters of recommendation?

Explain your reasoning.

Do you think Grover took the potion to try to keep Percy from going away to college?



Which character's return were you happiest to read about?

How did Percy and his friends use problem-solving skills?

What made you laugh the most in the story?

Can Percy be too hard on himself sometimes? Why or why not?

If you could ask Percy any question you wanted, what would it be?



JOIN THE WEEK JUNIOR'S BOOK CLUB

Watch a special video Rick Riordan created for *The Week Junior* and learn more about how our monthly book club works at kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub.

Ask the
author

Rick Riordan has written more than 20 novels for young readers, and many have been turned into movies and TV shows. He spoke to *The Week Junior* about writing the highly anticipated new book, *Wrath of the Triple Goddess*, in his Percy Jackson series.

How did you become a writer?

I taught middle school, and my students loved it when I told them stories. I was also writing mysteries for adults, and my students asked why I wasn't writing books for them. As is so often the case, the kids were right, and that's when I started creating the Percy Jackson series.



Who is Percy based on?

Percy is based on my oldest son, who was struggling with ADHD and dyslexia when I started the series. While Percy in *Wrath of the Triple Goddess* still has the same challenges, he's learned how to deal with them. It's gotten easier for Percy, just like it did for my son.

What has it been like to
write for a TV show?

TV is a team sport with hundreds of people on set working on the show together. That's really exciting, but it does take more time to tell a story compared with when I sit down to write a book on my own.

Any writing advice for readers?

Keep writing and don't give up. Every published writer, including me, has one thing in common — we've all been rejected.

Favorite comic character?

Ms. Marvel — I love the graphic novels, and I think Disney did a great job bringing her character into the TV world.

Plans for Halloween?

I'll be walking around where I live in Boston, which has a lot of winding streets, gas lamps, and ghost stories.





DID YOU KNOW?

Calligraphy is a highly valued art in China that dates back more than 3,000 years.



Learn the art of calligraphy

Find out how you can create your own beautiful lettering.

Calligraphy, which is also sometimes known as lettering, is the art of beautiful handwriting. It also can be a good way to reduce stress because practicing calligraphy is a mindful and meditative exercise. More people are discovering the joys of this creative art. Here's how you can get started.

Gather supplies

All you need is blank paper, a few markers, and a pencil. Craft stores also sell calligraphy markers and "brush pens." Brush pens have a flexible tip for making light or thick lines depending on the pressure you put on the pen. Once you have your supplies, take time to try them out. Try holding your writing instrument at a 45-degree angle to the paper. Experiment with putting various amounts of pressure on the pen or writing lines with the marker's pointy tip or its chiseled side.

Practice the basic strokes

Start by making a row of "upstrokes." These are thin lines to draw starting from the bottom and finishing at the top. On the next row, make "downstrokes." These are thick lines drawn from top to bottom. Draw

each line slowly, which will help you more easily transition between them as you begin to combine these strokes to make letters. You can find examples of more basic calligraphy strokes to practice on the YouTube channel "The Happy Ever Crafter."

Design a special font

Write a word in pencil lightly on paper. It could be any word you like, such as your name or initials.

You can write uppercase letters, lowercase letters, or a combination. You can even create your own font by leaving extra space around each letter to add special flourishes. For example, you might try adding polka dots, curlicues, or a nature theme of leaves and bees. If you'd like, give your font a name. (You may want to name it after yourself!)

Choose your color palette

When your marker dries, you can go back and erase some of the pencil lines. Next, you can add color to your letters. To give them a consistent look, choose two or three colors to use on each letter. When you're done coloring the letters, you can make them stand out by outlining them in a fine-tip marker.



A calligraphy marker

3 fun ways to use it



Here are a few ideas for sharing your new calligraphy skills.

Cards You can give a friend or family member a card with a message you have lettered by hand. You could also write a holiday greeting or words of support to cheer someone up.

Party invites Make invitations to an upcoming celebration stand out by writing them by hand. You can also design place cards with people's names on them to use at the event itself!

Gifts You can write an inspiring or fun quote in calligraphy and frame it for yourself or someone else. It will be extra special because it's in your handwriting.



Plant seed balls for spring flowers

What you'll need

- Six large sheets of recycled newspaper
- Wildflower seeds (choose native, non-invasive flowers)
- Large bowl to soak the paper
- Blender
- Colander
- Food coloring (optional)
- Wire cooling rack (optional, to dry the seed balls)

Instructions

1. Tear newspaper into small pieces, 1 inch or smaller.
2. Place the ripped paper pieces in a bowl and cover them with water. Allow the paper to soak for at least 15 minutes.
3. With an adult's help, place the soaked paper into the blender pitcher until it's about one third full, then fill it up the rest of the way with water. (You can work in batches.) Blend well until it is a mushy pulp and there aren't visible pieces.
4. Pour the pulp into a colander and press out the water until it is still wet and moldable but not drippy. Repeat with the rest of the paper.
5. Optional: Add color. Divide the pulp into as many bowls as colors you would like. Add a drop of food coloring into the pulp and knead. You can add another drop or two for deeper color.
6. Grab a small handful—about 1½ inch—of the paper mixture and knead in 2 or 3 large seeds or 5 to 10 small seeds. Roll it into a ball.
7. Dry the seed balls on a wire rack or a few sheets of newspaper for 2 to 4 days. Store them in a cool, dark place until you are ready to plant them or give them to friends or family as gifts.
8. Plant the seed balls by poking them halfway into moist soil or tossing them into hard-to-reach spots in your garden (if you plan on tossing them, be sure to soak them first). You can expect to see plants sprouting as the weather warms in the spring. Makes about 10 seed balls.



LIFE HACK

CLEAN OUT YOUR WATER BOTTLE

Over time, water bottles can collect dirt and mold—even if you can't see it. To prevent this, give your bottle a thorough cleaning at least once a week. First, check to see if it's dishwasher safe. If it is, you can put it in the dishwasher's top rack, where temperatures are lower, to prevent plastic parts from melting. If it's not dishwasher safe, or you've decorated it with stickers and want to avoid damaging them, wash it by hand. Use dish soap, a soft sponge, and a long-handled brush to scrub inside. Clean any straws with a straw brush. If there is a sealing ring on the cap, remove it and give it a good scrub. Once you've rinsed all parts of the bottle thoroughly, it's ready for a refill.





Puzzles



Keyword crossword

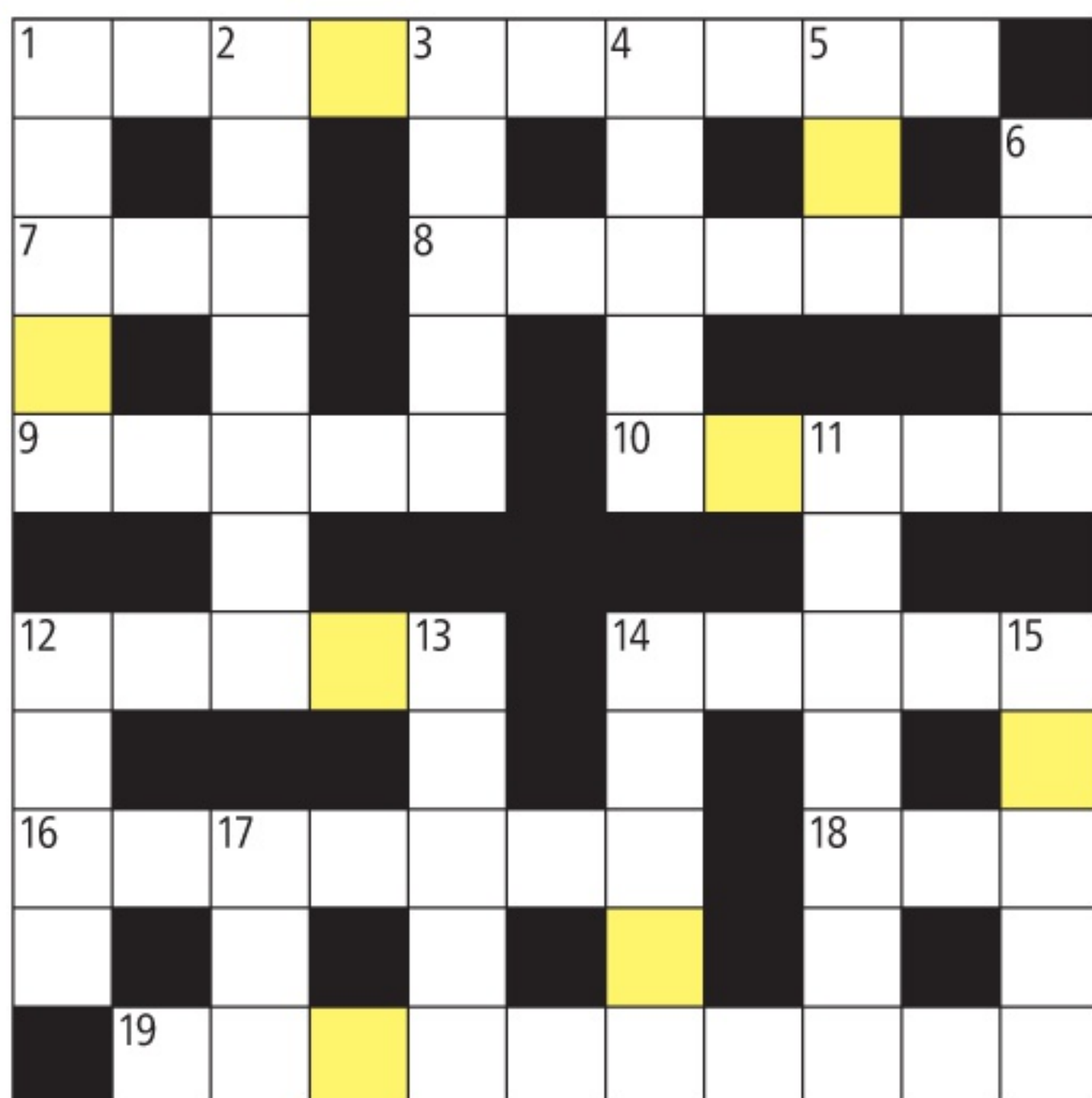
Once you have completed the crossword, transfer the letters in the yellow boxes, in order, into the boxes below to get the answer to the Keyword question.

ACROSS

- 1 Person who writes computer code
- 7 Word after vacant or parking
- 8 #1 ice cream flavor worldwide
- 9 Surprising turn in a story or movie
- 10 Like the air near a campfire
- 12 Animal that gives us wool
- 14 Pair of babies born together
- 16 The highest singing voice
- 18 The fourth word seen at the start of all *Star Wars* movies
- 19 Creamy sandwich spread

DOWN

- 1 Voice heard over a plane's intercom
- 2 A drawn shape that has no interior details
- 3 Construction item used to fasten steel beams together
- 4 Opposite of plus
- 5 Slender, sometimes electrified fish
- 6 Part of the military that uses submarines
- 11 Art of folding paper into shapes
- 12 Long strip of silk worn over the shoulder of a pageant winner
- 13 This had a keyboard long before the computer did
- 14 Item removed from a lion's paw in an age-old story
- 15 Kitchen appliance
- 17 Green veggie that comes from a pod



Keyword question: What school subject's name means "to measure the Earth"?



CODE CRACKER

In this coded list of emotions, every letter has been replaced with a substitute. The same substitutions are used throughout the list. Hint: Every X here is an uncoded S. Use the letter patterns you find to crack the code. (NEED ANOTHER HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

K T Z M F

X V M H F X X

V H J F T

X B T K T Z X F



ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

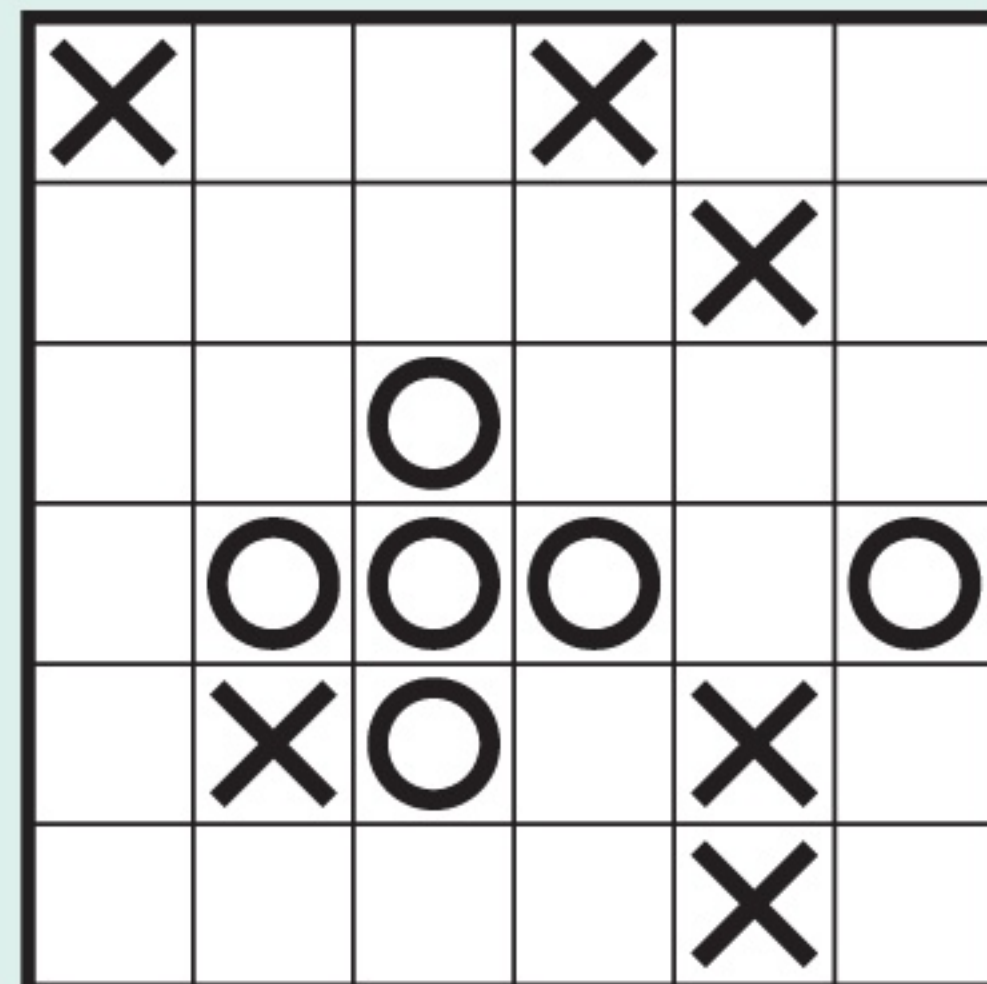
THREE FOR ALL

Sort this list into three familiar three-part phrases, like THREE-RING CIRCUS or SALT LAKE CITY.

YOUR BREAD IN WHOLE WORK
PROGRESS PLAY WHEAT PART

Hit or miss

Place an X or O in each empty square so there are never more than three X's or O's together in a row, column, or diagonal. Hint: If you find three in a row of one letter, you can put the other letter into the spaces at either end.



Spot the difference

These two pictures of cats appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





We're jelly of his talent.



PB&J is elevated to fine art

A Florida man turned a trip to the grocery store into art. Noah Verrier bought crustless peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for his children. After taking a bite of one of the sandwiches in his art studio, he noticed the way the sunlight struck the jelly and decided to paint it. The artwork sold for nearly \$5,000. Verrier has become known for capturing the bright colors and textures of certain foods in elaborate oil paintings. He has painted dinosaur-shaped chicken nuggets, a Philly cheesesteak, and a Cheesy Gordita Crunch from Taco Bell—which caused the company to comment, “Art can be so beautiful.”



Game, set, match!

Snazzy seating for sports fans

In Belgium, tennis balls are being served up in a most unusual way. Mathilde Wittock, a designer who makes environmentally conscious products, has been making stylish seats from used balls donated by tennis clubs. She said, “I played tennis myself, so I know there is a lot of waste.” Tennis balls take about 400 years to break down in a landfill, but Wittock can cut and weave hundreds of balls into a bench or lounge chair in less than a month. Her “Bounce” chair costs \$2,900 and can be dyed to match a buyer’s home decor. She also offers tennis ball wall panels and dividers for people who want to make their spaces soundproof.

Jess Peters with Louis the meow-ntaineer



The cat that climbs mountains

For the first time ever, a cat has completed the UK’s National Three Peaks Challenge—a hike up each of the highest mountains in Scotland, England, and Wales. People often try to complete the challenge in 24 hours, driving to the base of each mountain and ascending to the peak on foot. Louis, a 7-year-old Persian cat, took part in the climbs with his owners, Jess Peters and Dan Taylor, who kept him on a leash. They started taking Louis on walks and other outdoor adventures when he was a kitten. “He just loves being outside,” they said. Together, they all completed the challenge in 29 hours.

Real or fake?



Can walls be coated with cocoa?

Painting the house chocolatey

Chocolate fans will soon be able to create rooms that would make Willy Wonka proud by using a new chocolate paint. The spreadable “chocolate emulsion,” developed by paint technicians in Scotland, uses real chocolate and can be thinned by mixing with water. There are several shades to choose from, including milk, dark, and white. Unfortunately, people will need to regularly redecorate their walls with the sweet-smelling paint because the chocolate fades over time as it reacts with oxygen in the air. Is this story real, or have we sugarcoated the facts?*

*Fake! You can't buy chocolate paint, but Scottish artist Anya Gallaccio used melted chocolate to paint all four walls of a room as part of an artwork called *Stroke*. “To some people it will be delicious, and to some people it will be revolting,” she told BBC News.



Your turn

Editor's note

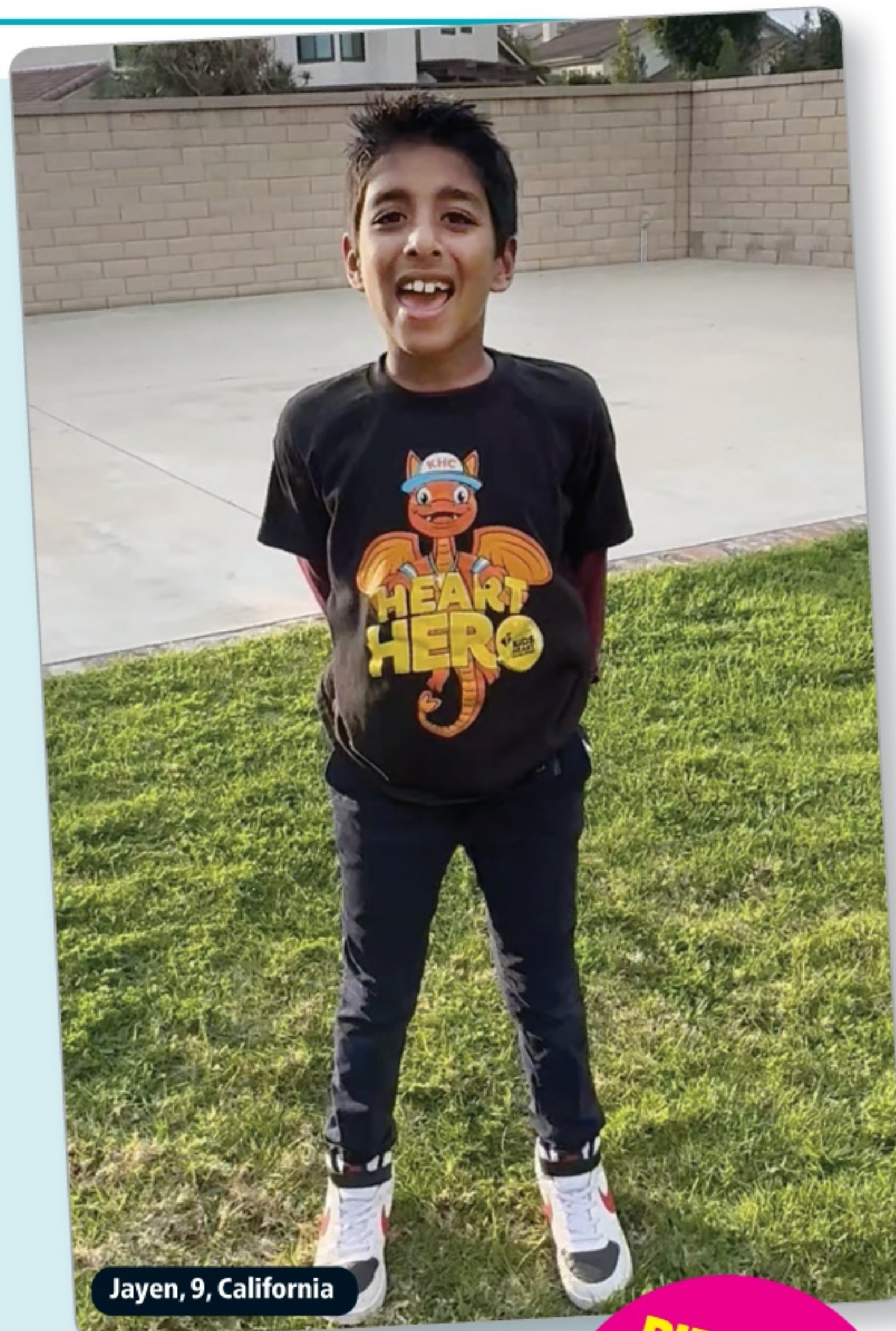
When *The Week Junior* went to press on October 1, several states in the southeastern US were facing the aftermath of a devastating hurricane (p2). The record-breaking storm caused massive destruction across hundreds of miles, leaving people to cope with flooding, mudslides, widespread power and cell phone outages, and the loss of homes, businesses, and entire towns. Our thoughts are with everyone who has been affected. As always when difficult events occur, there has been an outpouring of aid and support. Thousands of people from government agencies and nonprofit organizations are providing help in the region and will be there for many weeks to come. Thank you to everyone who is assisting with the recovery. If you and your family are looking for a way to join the effort, see the advice in our "How you can help" box on page 2.



Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

A heartfelt donation

“I love reading *The Week Junior* and learning about so many world issues. I especially love reading about kids my age making a difference in their communities. I am currently the local Youth Heart Hero Ambassador for Orange County and have raised more than \$1,500 for the American Heart Association, which fights heart disease. Our school participates in the group's Kids Heart Challenge that is focused on inspiring kids to choose healthy habits. I encourage fellow classmates to donate and raise funds for a great cause. I also work hard to inspire peers and family to stay active and eat healthy. I love helping those in need and want to inspire kids my age to make a positive difference.”



Jayen, 9, California

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK
What part of you grows longer in the afternoon?
Your shadow



CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Marine Conservation Institute

This organization works to preserve the world's oceans and the plants and animals that live in it. It advocates for certain areas of the ocean to be protected so there is a safe home for marine life, and it has created a digital atlas that shows protected ocean areas around the world. It also raises awareness about how climate change harms the ocean. Find out more at marine-conservation.org.



Marine Conservation Institute

What makes your grandparents special?

Liana, who is 8 years old and from California, said she likes playing with her grandparents and learning new things from them. A favorite memory is going to Hawaii together and watching the sunset. To celebrate your grandparent or any special older person, go to kidsttheweekjunior.com/activities to print out a form (like the one at right). Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. We'll feature some of the responses we receive in future issues.

Why my grandparents are important to me

Grandparents' Day is coming up on September 8, 2024. This is a day when people of different generations, like grandparents and their grandchildren, are encouraged to connect. We invite you to use this form to write down your thoughts about one or more of your grandparents—or any special older people in your life. You can also share this form with them. They may enjoy knowing what you have to say! We would also love to read what you write and see your artwork. To share your thoughts and drawing with us, ask an adult to email your form to hello@theweekjunior.com. Extra forms can be found at theweekjunior.com/activities.

First name Liana Age 8 State CA

In honor of Grandparents' Day, explain why your grandparents are important to you.
Because they do so many things for me like playing with and helping me learn.

If you could describe your grandparents in three words, which words would you choose?
My grandparents are kind, helpful, and amazing.

What is your favorite memory of being with your grandparents?
My favorite memory with grandparents was going to Hawaii and looking out at the sun set!

Draw a picture of you with your grandparents.

Grandparents

Me

By submitting this form, you give The Week Junior consent to print it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.



YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"The raspberry oat yogurt muffin recipe from *The Week Junior* was a yummy breakfast treat." Ben, 11, and Lily, 8, New Jersey

"I brought my copy of *The Week Junior* to Italy and read it at the Colosseum!" Isaac, 10, Massachusetts



"I really liked reading about how dogs can sense emotions through scent." Annika, 10, Washington



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Miss Yokom**

School: **Valentine Hills Elementary**

"Miss Yokom always has something nice to say, and she encourages us to do hard things. She makes everyone in my class, including me, feel very special. Not only is she my teacher, but she's also my track coach. Miss Yokom is fun to be around, and I wish I could be in her class forever!"

Violet, 10, Minnesota

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.

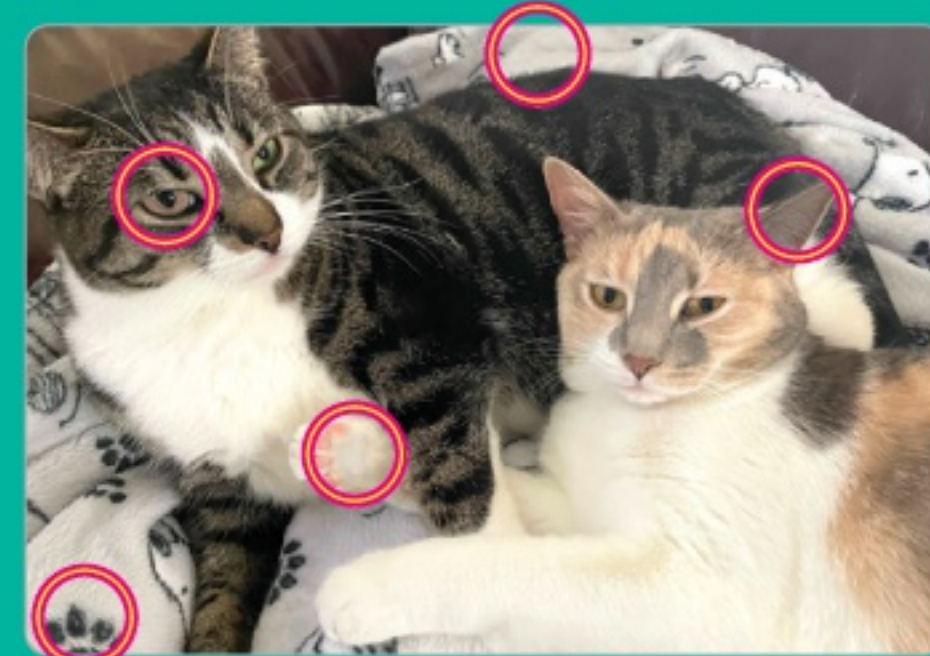
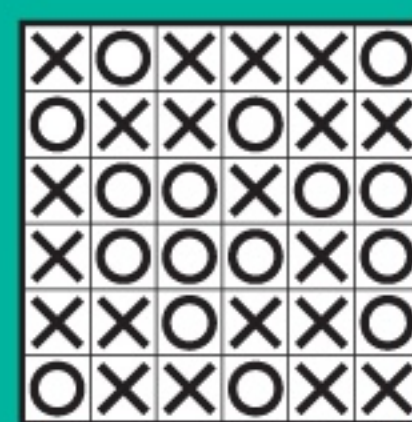
Puzzle answers (from page 26)

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| P | R | O | G | R | A | M | M | E | R | |
| I | U | I | I | E | N | | | | | |
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| O | L | E | U | | | | | | | |
| T | W | I | S | T | S | M | O | K | Y | |
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| S | H | E | E | P | | | | | | |
| A | | | | | | | | | | |
| S | O | P | R | A | N | O | | | | |
| H | E | | | | | | | | | |
| M | A | Y | O | N | N | A | I | S | E | |

Keyword answer:
geometry

Code cracker
pride
sadness
anger
surprise

Three for all
whole wheat bread
work in progress
play your part



Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 Kwanzaa 2 True 3 b) Pharrell Williams 4 True 5 Nebraska 6 c) Napheesa Collier
7 False. It came from Scotland. 8 c) Cane toads 9 a) A giant 10 False. They have three hearts. 11 Los Angeles Dodgers 12 a) Smart 13 Today 14 c) Chelsea 15 True

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 The US Postal Service revealed a new Forever stamp honoring what holiday?

2 True or false? California was the first US state to ban plastic bags.

True ☐ False ☐

3 *Piece by Piece* is an animated documentary about the life of which musical artist?

- a) Harry Styles
b) Pharrell Williams
c) Taylor Swift

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 True or false? Scientists think horses are smart enough to plan ahead.

True ☐ False ☐

5 The Joslyn Art Museum is the largest art museum in what state?

6 Which WNBA player was named the league's Defensive Player of the Year?

- a) Caitlin Clark
b) DiJonai Carrington
c) Napheesa Collier

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

7 True or false? A recent study found that Stonehenge's Altar Stone came from Wales.

True ☐ False ☐

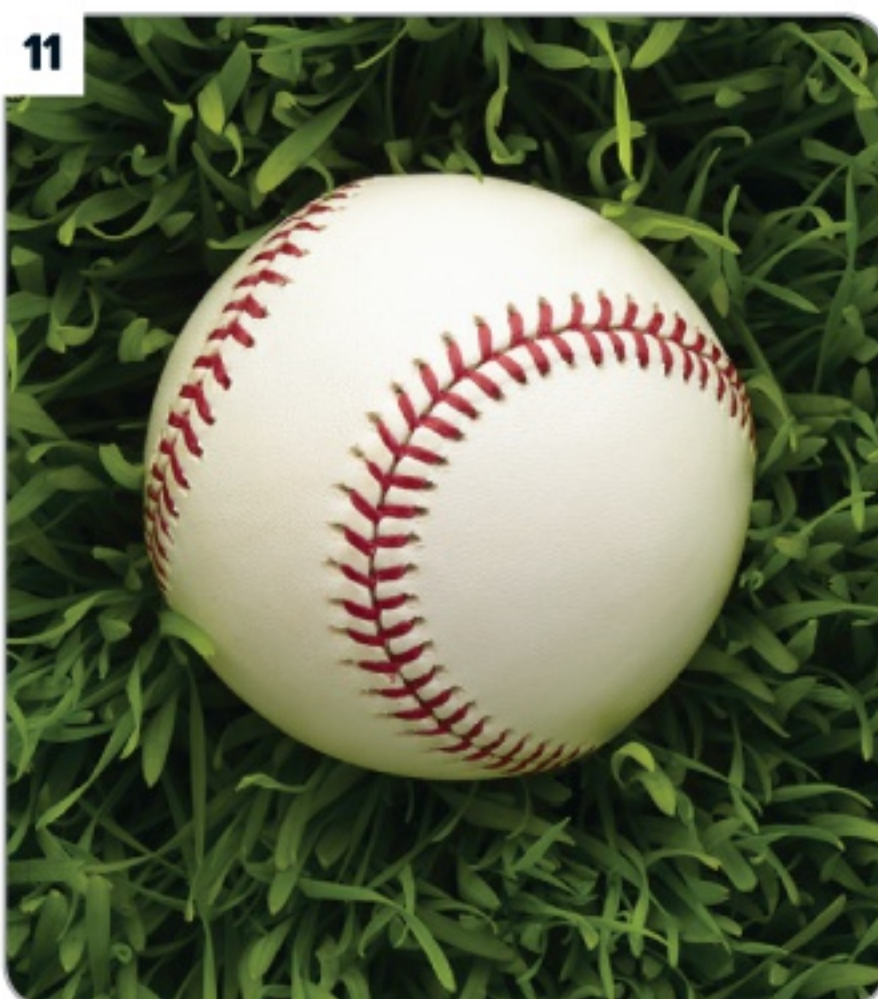
8 Experts in Australia taught freshwater crocodiles not to eat which poisonous creatures?

- a) Pufferfish b) Dart frogs c) Cane toads

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐



ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.



9 In the new Percy Jackson book *Wrath of the Triple Goddess*, Grover drinks a potion that turns him into what?

- a) A giant b) A troll c) A werewolf

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 True or false? Octopuses have five hearts.

True ☐ False ☐

11 Which team finished with the most wins overall in Major League Baseball this year?

12 In the video game *Looney Tunes: Wacky World of Sports*, Bugs Bunny falls into which skill category?

- a) Smart
b) Speedy
c) Powerful

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 Hoda Kotb is stepping down as the host of what NBC show?

14 The new head coach of the US Men's National Soccer Team most recently led which English soccer team?

- a) Arsenal
b) Bournemouth
c) Chelsea

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 True or false? Noah Verrier earned nearly \$5,000 for a painting of a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

True ☐ False ☐

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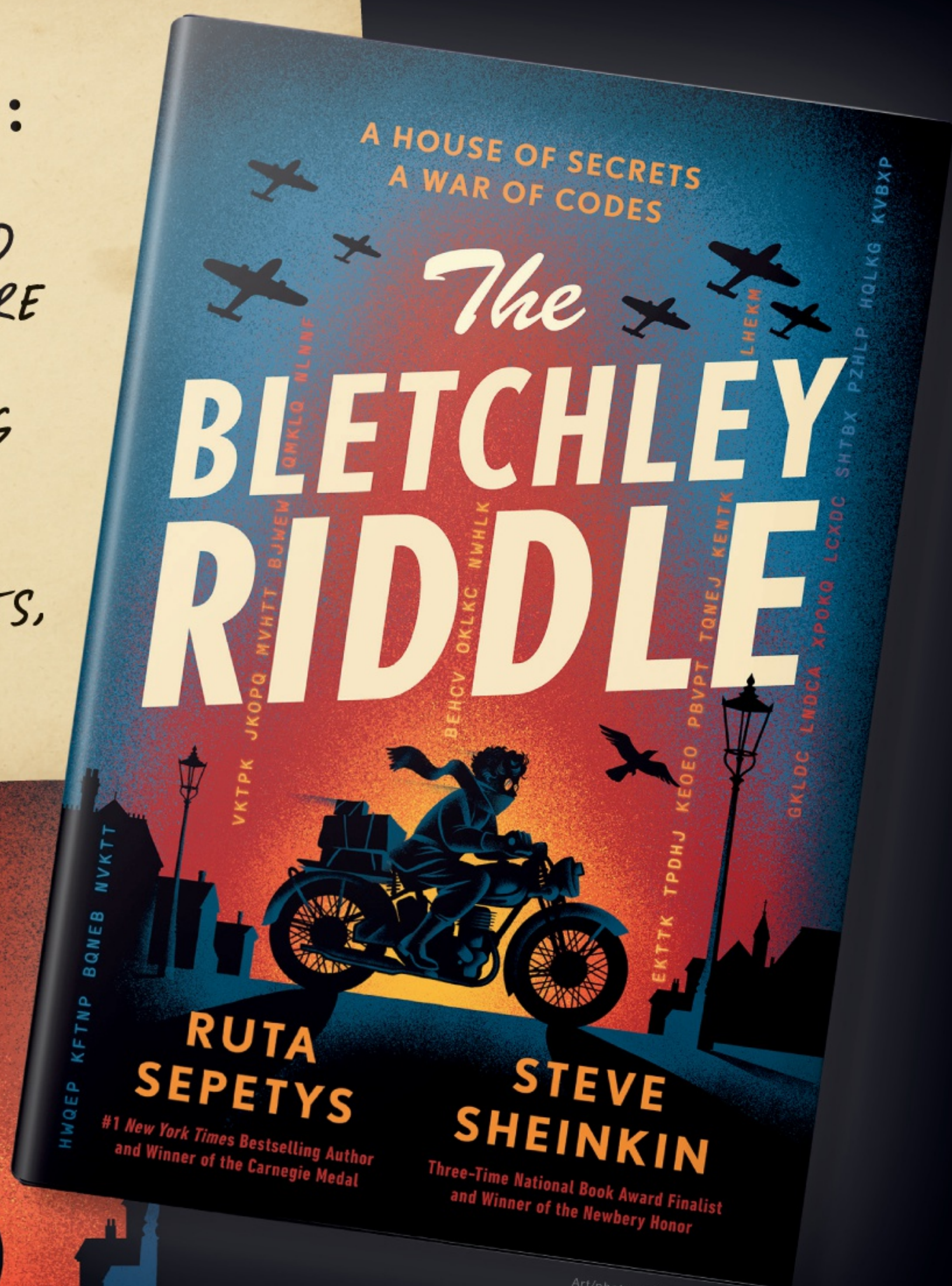
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